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(Fermi 2 nuclear reactor & other environmental news)

Fermi's Waste, Too Hot to Handle?

The U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board did a 150-page report, "an evaluation of the technical and integration issues that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will need to address to ensure that spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and high-level radioactive waste (HLW) are ready for transportation to a nuclear waste repository or an interim storage site."

On page 109 of the document, there is a disturbing revelation:

"DOE estimated that if SNF was repackaged from large casks and canisters into smaller standardized canisters (and using standard assumptions about the operating lifetime of the U.S. fleet of nuclear reactors), DOE could remove SNF from all nuclear power plant sites by 2070. However, if no repackaging occurs, some of the largest SNF canisters storing the hottest SNF would not be cool enough to meet the transportation requirements until approximately 2100."

Since the refueling outage, Fermi 2 is now burning the hottest fuel, and this tells us the waste will be sitting on Lake Erie shores for a very long time. See the full report at:

https://www.nwtrb.gov/docs/default-source/reports/nwtrb_nuclearwastetransport_508.pdf?sfvrsn=6

"Not all of the technical issues have to be addressed before the first of the waste is transported, but all 30 must be addressed before all the waste is eventually transported," from the two-page Synopsis. It can be found here. https://www.nwtrb.gov/docs/default-source/reports/nwtrb_nuclearwastetransport_508.pdf?sfvrsn=6.

Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two

(CRAFT) telephone 313-286-3827

Post Office Box 401356, Redford MI 48240

shutdownfermi@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/groups/51956598157696/

<https://shutdownfermi.net>



New York Will Tax Rad Waste

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has signed legislation giving the communities around the Indian Point nuclear reactor the right to collect taxes on spent nuclear fuel that will be left behind when the reactor shuts down in April.

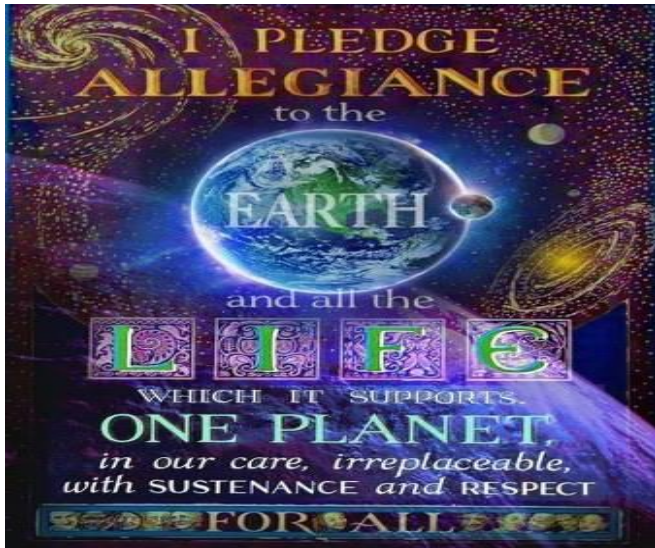
The new law designates spent nuclear fuel stored in reactor cooling pools and steel-and-cement containers as real property that can be assessed and taxed.

The owner of the property would be taxed. Entergy – long-time owner/operator of Indian Point – now has an agreement to sell the reactor to Holtec.

Cuomo also amended the state's Public Service Law to make it clear that the Public Service Commission has the authority to oversee nuclear reactors after shutdown.

"The state must retain its oversight to ensure that nuclear facilities are shut down and decommissioned, and the sites restored, safely and thoroughly," Cuomo stated.

New Jersey is now considering the same tactic. And we think Michigan should since Palisades is due to shut down and be bought out by Holtec.



Fermi Gets Another Exemption

Due to continued pandemic, DTE requested another exemption from the law “to prevent impairment from fatigue due to duration, frequency, or sequencing of successive shifts.”

DTE had an exemption that expired Jan 17th, and now the new one is good until March 18th. “Fermi 2 overall continues to see a high number of new COVID-19 cases and individuals quarantined concurrent with the sustained high numbers seen at the county and state levels,” stated DTE’s request.

NRC’s Fermi 1 Inspection Report

“The inspectors determined that no detectable licensed radioactive material had been released to the environment through the discharges from the active sumps and the standing water in the Fuel and Repair building (FARB),” the report stated.

“The standing water was due to the leaking into the basement of the FARB. The inspector determined that only natural occurring radioactive materials were identified.”

Fermi 1 had a partial meltdown over 50 years ago – before DTE ever sold a kilowatt of electricity from it. It was in the process of being decommissioned (meaning all radiation/poisons would be removed and the site could once again be used by humans, flora and fauna) but in 2012, DTE decided to halt decommissioning and place it in SAFSTOR.

We wonder what DTE’s bigger plan is here, since corporations continually take steps toward a

larger goal that’s years away. No sense to speculate, i.e., do they plan to sell it to Holtec?

If any of our readers has knowledge of why DTE stopped the decommissioning of Fermi 1, please let us know and we will pass the info along.

Community Grants Available

Apex Clean Energy announced the Azalia Solar Community Grant Program to award money to organizations and projects supporting residents in the Greater Milan, Michigan area.

Up to \$4,000 will be awarded quarterly throughout 2021 to non-profits doing: building healthy communities’ economic development environmental sustainability (maybe CRAFT will apply); and promoting education.

Apex plans to build a solar array generating up to 150 megawatts clean energy in Milan Township. To apply, visit azaliasolar.com/grant or call 734-294-5659 for more information.

Thaw, DTE’s New Charity

It just seems wrong that a corporation with profits in the billions should ask me to donate money to a fund for people who cannot pay their electric bills.

A little donor card envelope was included in our electric bills. Wouldn’t it be more humane for DTE to forgive the debts?

If Nothing Else, NRC is Quotable

Do you believe that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) really cares for the people and the environment they profess to protect? We don’t and here is a good example of why not.

The Three Mile Island (TMI) Alert, a watchdog group focused on TMI requested a public hearing on TMI Unit 2’s license transfer from FirstEnergy. Unit 2 is to close permanently in 2022.

The NRC responded, “The hearing, if granted would not be completed prior to the approval of the license transfer application.”

EPA Industry-Friendly Nixed

A D.C. Circuit Court ruled Trump’s changes to the EPA violated federal law. Yay! The new administration can enforce Obama-era rules.



Reactors' Licensed for 100 Years?

On the 21st day of the 21st year of the 21st century, the NRC held an all-day meeting to push the licensing of nuclear reactors for 100 years.

If that sounds unbelievable, how about they allowed one man, Paul Gunter of Beyond Nuclear, to present reasons why it should not be done. We won't bother to list the benefits to the nuclear industry, but here are logical points that Paul made:

The continued absence of long-term radioactive waste disposal; the lack of health impact studies from operating reactors and accidents; nuclear's steady decline of economic performance; nuclear power's unsustainability; environmental justice issues and the uranium fuel chain; current reactors are not sited for climate change; reliable, competitive, and abundant renewable energy; and dealing with each reactor's technical difficulties.

And we add another objection – the massive amounts of water that reactors use. Fermi 2 takes in 45.1 million gallons per day of Lake Erie water for cooling and discharges it back to the lake at temperatures up to 97 degrees Fahrenheit.

This causes thermal pollution, which jumpstarts algal blooms and invites invasive species to the warmer water, but it is not Fermi's only assault on the water. Fermi 2 can legally dump poisons, radioactive elements, thorium, and heavy metals.

The legal limits for Copper are 15 pounds per day and Phosphorus is 380 pounds per day, besides all the biocides and other additives. Lake Erie cannot take much more of this, much less for

another 100 years. Read the entire presentation – NRC and BN's here:

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21022A019>

Phone Warriors Save the date!

Could the all-day teleconference on licensing reactors for 100 years have been a scare tactic to make this teleconference more palatable?

On Feb. 18th, the NRC will hold a phone “public” meeting to get input on extending reactor licenses from 20 to 40 years. Maybe they think we will be relieved that they are only going for 40 years instead of 100.

The “meeting” will be from 9 a.m. until noon. The call-in number is 301-576-2978 and the passcode is 235359018#. Please call in and say this is a bad idea.

Jan. Fermi Documents Received

= **ML20365A043**. Revised Relief Request for Fourth Ten-Year Inservice Inspection. This started on May 2, 2019 and will end on May 2, 2029 unless the NRC grants Fermi more testing ease.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML20365A043>

= **ML21005A421**. Exemption from select requirements because of Covid-19. See article, page 2.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21005A421>

= **ML21012A049**. Fermi 1 Inspection Report. See article, page 2.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21012A049>

= **ML20014D880**. Zip file of Fermi documents already listed previously.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML20014D880>

= **ML21019A133**. Notice of Meeting to discuss Beyond Nuclear's 2.206 re: Mark 1 containment.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21019A133>

= **ML20356A028**. Meeting on license renewals for 40 years. See article, page 3.

= **ML21019A017**. Paul Gunter's Power Point of Topic #1, Should reactors operate for 100 years? Article, page 3.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21019A017>

= **ML21012A037**. NRC Budget for 2021.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21012A037>

NRC to Rule on BN's 2.206

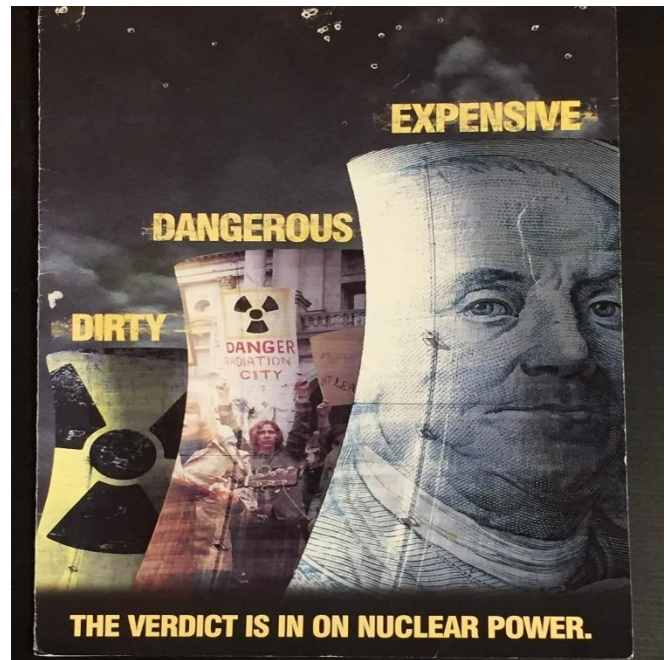
The NRC will hold a teleconference to discuss Beyond Nuclear 2.206 saying all Mark 1's should be shut down until their containment in case of an accident can be assured.

The date is Feb. 3rd, 2-3 p.m.; the call-in number and passcode are: Number: **(800) 772-3842** and Security Code: **2206**

New Newsletter Feature

As many of you know, Jessie Pauline Collins (CRAFT Co-Chair) has been the reporter and editor of this newsletter. Next, CRAFT's Community Organizer began a column. Now the Organizer, Jesse DeerInWater, has his own page, as does the James (Jim) Sherman, CRAFT Co-Chair.

This newsletter improvement will give readers an in-depth insight to subjects otherwise merely highlighted. Feel free to contact any of us.



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<https://www.gofundme.com/f/protecting-the-waters-fundraiser-for-craft>

or send a check made out to CRAFT Times.

Ohio Corruption Update

The mayor of Dayton, Ohio, says leading Republican lawmakers have been “bought off by the rich energy companies who fund their campaigns” and are [looking out for themselves](#) “at the expense of everyday Ohioans.” (*Cleveland.com*)



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Post Office Box 401356

Redford MI 48240