



Feb. 2022 *CRAFT Times* vol. 9 no. 2

DTE Hearing on Rate Increase

“The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a pre-hearing to consider DTE Electric Company’s (DTE Electric) January 21, 2022 application requesting the Commission to: 1) approve an additional annual revenue increase in the amount of approximately \$388 million effective as early as November 10, 2022, in order to recover, among other things, DTE Electric’s increased investments in plant involving generation and the electric distribution system and the associated depreciation and property tax increases; 2) approve DTE Electric’s proposed capital structure and return on equity; 3) grant DTE Electric’s request for tree trimming expenditures and the associated request for regulatory asset treatment through 2024; 4) approve new rates effective as early as November 10, 2022 as proposed by DTE Electric; 5) grant DTE Electric’s request to approve the PSCR base; 6) approve DTE Electric’s proposals to implement certain customer rate schedules and tariffs; 7) approve recovery of DTE Electric’s generation investments; 8) approve recovery of DTE Electric’s investments related to the strengthening of its distribution system and reliability improvements; 9) approve all proposed pilot programs as requested by DTE Electric; 10) approve all proposed regulatory accounting treatments as requested by DTE Electric; 11) approve a capacity charge based on the methodology established in Case No. U- 20162 and the capacity-related costs approved as proposed; 12) grant any other relief described and requested as proposed by DTE Electric.” Tune in on Friday, February 18, 2022, at 9:00 AM, (517) 284-8090, or by email at mpscedockets@michigan.gov

Citizens’ Resistance at Fermi Two

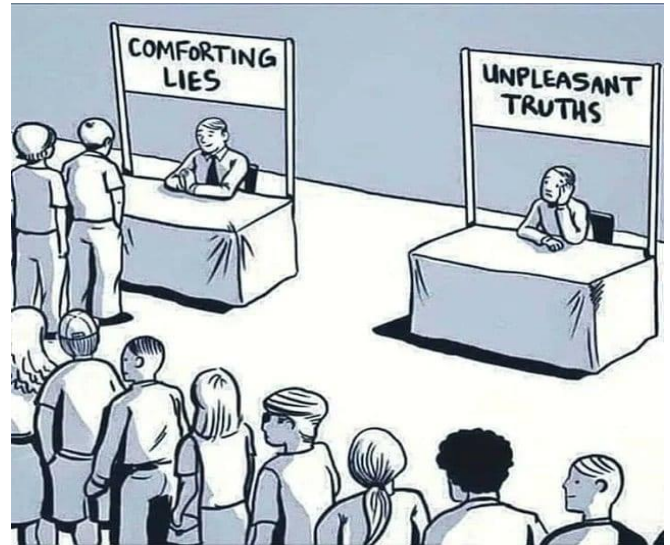
(CRAFT) telephone 313-286-3827

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shutdownfermi@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/groups/51956598157696/

<https://shutdownfermi.org>



Historical Compilation of Fermi Events

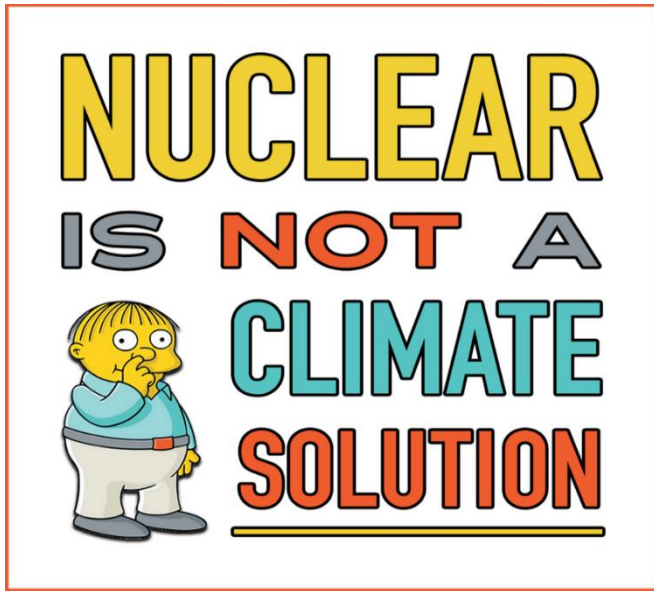
Nuclear engineer Dave Lochbaum, formerly with Union of Concerned Scientists, has generously shared with CRAFT this database of Fermi nuclear reactor events. These provide a great historical perspective on the origins of decades of problems that plague Fermi to this day.

Many of these documents only became public within the last two years. A 34-page treasure trove in chronological order. Many thanks to Dave who continues to work in the public interest, frequently offering expert consultation.

[Linked here](#) is a historical compilation of Fermi 2 events. Lochbaum generated the document, and he has generously given his permission to share it. Created January 17, 2022, by Dave with links provided by Kevin Kamps. A Powerful Tool - Thank you both!

Look at the Christmas Day 1993 accident and you will see why CRAFT formed! See the Beyond Nuclear story here.

<<http://archive.beyondnuclear.org/nuclear-reactors-whatsnew/2022/1/17/historical-compilation-of-fermi-events-by-dave-lochbaum.html>>



Good News on the Nuclear Front

CRAFT was one of many groups who signed on to a petition filed by the Harmon Curran Spielberg & Eisenberg law firm to suspend the NRC hearing notice for the Oklo combined license application. (Oklo wanted to build a mini reactor with an “advanced” design on the Idaho National Lab site.) Oklo’s petition was filed in July 2020 and the Commissioners denied it December 2020.

“It took a while, but in the end, we won,” said Diane Curran of the NRC Staff to deny Oklo’s application. If Oklo wants a license, they must start all over again. I am pleased that the NRC Staff cited many of the deficiencies we cited in our petition. Glad we could help them out!”

Fermi 2 License Event Report

The Cause of the High-Pressure Coolant Injection (HPCI) being Inoperable on June 3, 2021, was decided to be Contact Oxidation.

The condition happened during a HPCI test when the valve was slow to open, and “the Reactor Core Isolation Cooling was declared inoperable twice...”

“This condition was entered into the corrective action program and lessons learned were determined and communicated,” stated DTE’s filing. (*Good thing we did not need the cooling water available during that time.*)

DTE Gas Seeks New Pipeline

DTE Gas Company has requested the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) approval to “Construct and Operate the West Van Born Pipeline and Facilities Project in Washtenaw and Wayne Counties.”

DTE’s plan consists of construction 7.0 miles of 24-inch diameter natural gas pipeline, station upgrades at two existing facilities, and construction of two new facilities.

The MPSC will hold a pre-hearing on Wednesday, February 16th at 9 a.m. before an administrative law judge. The event will be by video/teleconferencing and anyone wishing to participate should contact the Commission Secretary at 517-284-8090 or by email at mpscedockets@michigan.gov.

Monroe/Lenawee State Senator Zorn introduced Senate Bill 820 which would make it impossible for any local municipalities to pass ordinances making a new pipeline in their district illegal.

DTE Rate Increase

DTE Energy has asked the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) for a \$388 million increase from its customers. They say it is to fund upgrades to the electric grid.

Trevor Lauer, DTE’s CEO, said the average increase to ratepayers would be about \$10 per month. And the money will be used for “electric-generation costs associated with DTE bringing its new Blue Water Energy Center natural gas-burning power plant...” and “decommissioning St. Clair and Trenton Channel coal-burning power plants. DTE Energy also plans to pilot the use of cleaner-burning hydrogen gas at its new power plant that will be part of the costs associated with the proposed rate increase.”

Grid fixes, my arse.

Lower Our Gas Bills? Yes, please

Sen. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) introduced a bill to prohibit gas utilities from charging us for gas that was lost and unaccounted for (LAUF) in their rate cases or adjustments.

Sen. Bill 822 would end the current law that allows ratepayers to pay the tab for DTE’s LAUF-which is the difference between the gas counted by the utility’s system and the gas measured at the consumer’s meter.

LAUF gas comes from pipeline leaks, variations in temperature and meter readings, third-party damage, meter tampering, and repairs done to gas pipelines.

In 2018, Michigan had the 10th highest amount of LAUF gas in the nation. From April 2020 to March 2021, DTE had more than 4.8 million lost units and charged customers \$13.5 million.



Climate Change

"Michigan utilities are struggling to provide reliable energy to customers as storms become more frequent and severe," began a 1/12/2022 *Monroe News* article.

Then the article goes on to say DTE and Consumers need financial aid. (*I laughed even though it was not meant to be funny.*) But the article has interesting facts, such as, nationwide, the average minutes of outage per customer during severe weather is 194.5, while Michigan's average is more than 350.

"We know that the impacts of climate change in terms of frequency and severity of weather is only going to increase," said Michigan Public Service Commissioner Tremaine Phillips. "Climate change isn't something that is in our distant or even near future – it's happening now."

DTE announced a \$7 billion investment to fix their problem but intend for that money to come from ratepayers.

Since 1974, Michigan has required underground lines for all new distribution developments but has

not seriously tried to get utilities to move overhead lines underground.

And the article did not mention rising lake levels.

Ohio Groups call for Dissolution

Several Ohio and National organizations called for the beginning of the process of revoking the charter of First Energy Corporation, to dissolve the company.

The request comes about because of the corporation's admitted involvement in the \$60 million bribery and money-laundering scheme. Ohio has a state law called *quo warranto* which allows the Attorney General to revoke the charter of a corporation licensed in Ohio.

FYI – No Room for These Articles

= A closed reactor can take up to 60 years to decommission (decontaminate and restore land).

= In May, Finland became the first country to store nuclear waste underground.

= Thirteen states have banned construction of new nuclear plants.

= DTE's Monroe Coal Plant was named as the 4th dirtiest facility in the country. DTE's Belle River Power Plant ranked No. 74.

= State Sen. Dale Zorn, R-Ida, hopes to return to the Michigan House of Representatives, but this time as a resident of Lenawee County. Zorn, who is leaving the senate due to term limits, has filed a petition to pursue a seat in the 34th District. Zorn, 68, is planning to move from his lifelong home in Ida to the family lake house at Sand Lake.

CRAFT Public Zoom Meeting

This is an invitation to attend a zoom meeting with the CRAFT Steering Committee Team on Thursday February 17th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. We are not yet having In-Person meetings, but zoom is good. Here is the link for the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6559569802?pwd=ajMvRE5TNmVJaW1iWIRJalV2dnhZdz09>

Jan. Fermi Documents Received

= **ML21361A014.** Conversation Record between NRC's Margaret Offerle to NMSS's Tilda Lui.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21361A014>
ML21361A015. NRC Conversation Record regarding a Fermi request for time change in Fermi's Effluent Monitoring report.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21361A015>
= **ML21208A259.** Request for Exemption on reporting the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) effluent from 60 days after monitoring to May 1st, the same reporting date as the reactor's effluent report.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21208A259>
ML21361A016. Email from Margaret Offerle to Tilda Liu recompiling the Annual Radiological Environmental Operating Report and the Annual Radioactive Effluent Release Report.”

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21361A016>
= **ML22004A268.** Notification of Baseline Inspection. Inspection to get ready for the refueling outage.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22004A268>
= **ML21362A160.** Changes to Technical Specifications. The document only lists the changes to: “Perform functional test of 480-volt circuit breakers” and “Subject each circuit breaker to an inspection...” Each will be inspected every 72 months.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21362A160>

Post Office Box 401356
Redford MI 48240
= **ML21363A084.** Licensee Event Report No. 2021-003. “High Pressure Coolant Injection Inoperable due to Contact Oxidation.”
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21363A084>
= **ML21308A169.** Grants extension for DTE to submit ISPSI reports same calendar as Fermi 2.
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21308A169>



Many thanks go to Siefer Charitable and Anthropocene Alliance for their most generous donations last month.

Donations by check; our web page; or tax-deductible send to Beyond Nuclear, are appreciated. Contact us for more information.



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