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MPSC Looks to Study New Nukes

In follow-up to the Michigan Senate passing HB6019, the Michigan Public Service Commission put out a request for bids from consulting firms to conduct a study on whether the state should allow a new nuclear reactor to be built.

Now renamed Public Act 166 of 2022, Michigan's appropriations bill gave MPSC \$250,000 to find an outside firm to do the study.

The bidding window opened on January 13th and proposals are due February 13th, proposals need to address:

- design characteristics.
- environmental and ecological impacts.
- land and siting criteria; safety criteria.
- engineering and cost-related criteria.
- small cell nuclear reactor capability.

New – A Great Lakes Authority

In March 2022, Representative Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) introduced H.R. 7131 to create a new agency, the Great Lakes Authority. The bill passed the House and Senate where a companion bill was introduced by Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Rob Portman (R-OH) and has gone to the president for him to sign into law.

“Congresswoman Kaptur’s Great Lakes Authority is charged with among other responsibilities, initiating a laboratory to study energy recycling which is code talk for nuclear reprocessing spent fuel, which means separating out such isotopes such as U-233 and plutonium,” said Toledo nuclear abolitionist attorney Terry Lodge, “Let me point out that Jimmy Carter

Citizens’ Resistance at Fermi Two

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forbade nuclear reprocessing via Executive Order, which was revoked by Reagan. “



DTE Wants ANOTHER Rate Increase!

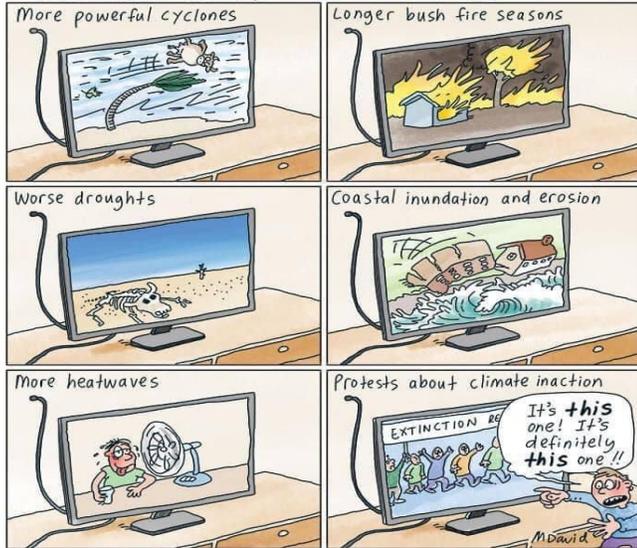
A DTE lawyer filed before the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) its intent to file an application to “increase its electric rates and for other requested relief” in February. The request “is based on a projected test year for the 12-month period ending November 30, 2024.” (*Say what?*)

DTE also plans to appeal MPSC’s decision to only give them a 10% rate increase this year. How about they cut salaries at the top?

Gerardo Norcia replaced former DTE Energy CEO Gerard Anderson on July 1, 2019. Anderson and Norcia earned \$12.1 million and \$8.2 million, respectively, in 2019. The following year, Anderson was paid \$7.2 million as Executive Chairman, while Norcia earned \$10.6 million as CEO. Financials for current years are unavailable.

The two men's compensation amounted to \$38 million over the two years. In 2020, the Energy and Policy Institute released a report analyzing the executive compensation policies of 19 of the biggest US electric utilities. The analysis showed that the policies did not prioritize decarbonization, despite demands from Climate Action 100+ and other investor groups. (Energy and Policy Institute)

The climate crisis: spot the inconvenience



MPSC Denies DTE's Pre-Pays

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) has denied DTE's proposal to allow customers to prepay their electric bills.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel, whose team intervened in DTE's \$12.6 million proposal, saying it would cut down on consumer protections, called it a big win.

Nessel and the MPSC agreed such a move – which would allow customers to pay their bills in advance – would penalize low-income customers since it would disconnect customers from service faster if they failed to pay.

Nessel noted another flaw in the plan was that DTE would spread the cost to all customers, but it would only benefit a select few.

The MPSC is allowing DTE to refile its request as a pilot program.

DTE's New Electricity Pricing

The price of Michigan's electricity is among the highest in the nation, and it is about to get higher with a new DTE program that they say will save us money. How, you may ask?

"Twenty hours a day and then all weekend, you have a fixed rate which is lower than our current rate," said DTE CEO Trevor Lauer. "Then what we're trying to reflect from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., is the most expensive to generate power."

Currently we pay between 16.9 and 18.6 cents per kilowatt hour but the 3 to 7 p.m. rate will jump to 20.98 cents per kilowatt hour beginning in March. DTE is calling it "time of day" rates, from

October to May, the peak hour rate will be 8% higher, however from June to September, it will be 35% higher.

One mystery however is on DTE's announcement, "This rate change is revenue neutral, DTE does not profit from this change."

Consumers began a similar program in 2021.

DTE's Dark Money Groups

An article in Planet Detroit by Tom Perkins linked DTE to "Dark Money," aka, closed-door dealings, in the effort to end Governor Whitmer's 2020 Covid Shutdown orders.

The 2021 Internal Revenue Records reveal DTE's \$100,000 donation was made in 2020 to Michigan Energy First, the main funder of Citizens for Fiscal Responsibility (MCFR) - the main funder of Unlock Michigan, the non-profit that opposed the lockdown and eventually got it lifted.

According to the article, DTE's money was given to Michigan Energy First, where it moved to MCFR and then on to Unlock Michigan.

"It's hard to see DTE's dark money contributions as anything but toxic to democracy," said Art Reyes of We The People, Michigan.

The whole article is listed in **FYI-In the News**.

Bomb Cyclone Scared Davis-Besse

The "bomb cyclone" that swept across the nation before Christmas caused workers at the Davis-Besse reactor to scramble to get a "notice of enforcement discretion" (NOED) from the NRC.

The storm had powerful winds that blew large masses of Lake Erie water eastward toward, and although the water along the Davis-Besse shoreline didn't drop to a dangerous level, it did drop below what regulations require, therefore the NOED was requested to cover the water level issue.

The NOED was granted for 48-hours, provided the water level did not fall below 558 feet where the intake is located. The rules call for the intake to be in at least 562 feet of water in what the NRC calls the "ultimate heat sink. (UHS)"

They call Lake Erie that because it's the body of water in which cooling water is drawn into the reactor and some of it gets back into the lake after being warmed inside, thus the term "UHS."

Fermi 2's UHS is 583 feet and was not affected by the bomb cyclone's winds.

**SOMETIMES YOUR
FREEDOM IS NOT TAKEN
AWAY AT GUNPOINT BUT
INSTEAD IT IS DONE ONE
PIECE OF PAPER AT
A TIME, ONE SEEMINGLY
MEANINGLESS RULE AT A
TIME, ONE SMALL
SILENCING AT A TIME.**

Fermi 2's Event Number 56295

In last month's issue, we reported on DTE's filing of Event Number 56241 stating Fermi's High Pressure Coolant Injection System (HPCI) was inoperable and they reported the HPCI inoperable about once a year.

On 01/04/2023, DTE filed another Event Notice, 56295, entitled "Safety Systems Inoperable" and then the following day, they filed the same event report with the changed "Revision Text: High Pressure Coolant Injection Inoperable."

Maybe this is this year's malfunction and the HPCI will be operable – should there be an accident at Fermi. Heaven forbid!

FYI – In the News!

= Michigan's two largest utilities donated a [combined \\$22 million](#) last year to nonprofits that help reduce energy bills for low-income customers. (*MLive*)

= Ohio utility FirstEnergy agrees to pay a [\\$3.9 million fine](#) for failing to disclose \$94 million in House Bill 6 lobbying spending to federal regulators. (*Cleveland.com*)

= Michigan utility Consumers Energy agrees to [expand the cap](#) on the number of customers who can participate in its distributed generation program. (*PV Magazine*)

= A late-December winter storm caused Lake Erie water levels to drop below [what federal regulators consider optimal](#) for an Ohio nuclear plant to operate. (*Toledo Blade*)

= Michigan regulators reject [DTE Energy's proposal](#) to allow customers to prepay utility bills, which the state attorney general argued would have eliminated consumer protections and harmed low-income customers. (*MLive*)

= DTE Energy partners with Michigan labor unions to [train prisoners for tree-trimming jobs](#), which are crucial for the utility's grid infrastructure program. (*Associated Press*)

= Detroit utility DTE Energy launches a new [time-of-use rate](#) for customers to help them reduce power use during peak demand periods. (*WDIV*)

= Michigan regulators search for an [outside consulting firm](#) to determine the feasibility of new nuclear power generation. (*WLNS*)

= A dark-money group linked to DTE Energy [contributed \\$100,000](#) in 2020 to another nonprofit that funded an effort challenging Michigan's COVID-19 lockdown policies. (*Planet Detroit*)

= **Try, try again:** DTE Energy will try to increase rates again in 2023. The utility [announced its intent to file](#) a new rate case on Jan. 10. The filing, expected on or around Feb. 10, comes after the Michigan Public Service Commission [approved just 10% of its requested increase](#) in November. The utility is also [petitioning](#) the Commission for a rehearing of last year's rate case. (*Planet Detroit*)

= A Detroit company plans to [produce 5,000 electric bikes](#) this year as demand is expected to grow sharply. (*Bridge Detroit*)

= Michigan regulators [approve a settlement](#) that will double the capacity allowed under a Consumers Energy rooftop solar program. (*Crain's Detroit Business, subscription*)

= A partnership between Detroit-based utility DTE Energy and local energy firms [trains new workers](#) for energy efficiency projects. (*FOX 2*)

= Detroit-based DTE Energy begins a [competitive bidding process](#) for up to 850 MW of new wind and solar projects. (*Daily Energy Insider*)

= The U.S. EPA [denies six coal plants' requests](#) to keep dumping toxic ash in unlined or inadequately lined pits, including at sites in Michigan and North Dakota, as the agency ramps up enforcement. (*Energy News Network*) (DTE's Monroe and Belle River plants included)

= DTE Energy disputes a U.S. EPA decision that would [prevent the utility](#) from dumping toxic coal

ash at two unlined storage ponds in southeastern Michigan. (MLive)

= Detroit-based DTE Energy opposes a southeastern Michigan city's proposal to ban gas connections at most new buildings, saying customers should get to choose their fuel source. (MLive)

Fermi's NPDES Permit

We have received no notice from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) that they have issued a draft permit for Fermi 2's new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) to use and abuse Lake Erie's water.

None of Fermi's permits have ever had thermal limits in them, and CRAFT is pushing for that to happen. Fermi only received limits on the amount of phosphorus they could discharge in the last permit. That limit is thirty pounds per day, and the farmers are being blamed for their phosphorus fertilizer use.

EGLE will give a 30-day comment period once the draft permit is issued. To be on the notification list, contact the secretary at ThelenS5@michigan.gov

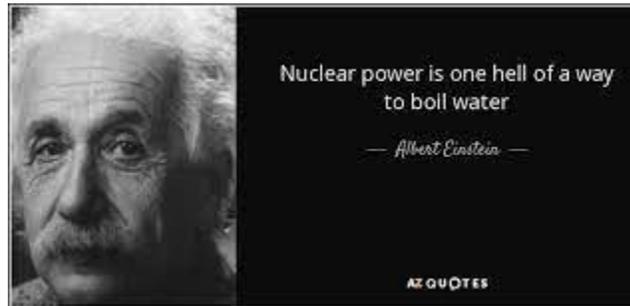
Shout Out to Donors!

Many thanks go out to the people who have donated to CRAFT's work - time and/or money.



CRAFT Times

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CRAFT's Shut Fermi Video!

The CRAFT Team has produced a video explaining why the Fermi 2 nuclear reactor should be eliminated. Watch it [here on the CRAFTS website home page](#).

Jan. Fermi Documents Received

= **ML22362A071**. Notification of fire inspection. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22362A071>
= **Event No. 56295**. "Safety Systems Inoperable" filed on 1/04/2023 and refiled on 1/05/2023 as High-pressure coolant injection Inoperable." See article, page 3.

Save the March 11 Date!

CRAFT will sponsor a Wild Rice Cook-Off at the North American Indian Association (NAIA) Center in Detroit at 2 p.m. Contact us for more information.