



Jan. 2021 *CRAFT Times* vol. 8 no. 1

(Fermi 2 nuclear reactor & other environmental news)

CRAFT Times begins 8th Year

Eight years ago, several activists from the late 1990s held a meeting to revive Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two to raise awareness of DTE's need to phase out their nuclear reactor and replace it with sustainable energy.

The group was originally formed after the Christmas Day 1993 accident that left one of Fermi's turbines damaged. We were active until 2001 when key activists left the area.

The Fukushima accident in 2011 brought the danger of the Mark 1 reactors back to the forefront and, after much soul searching, the decision to revive CRAFT was made. Eight years ago, the first issue of this newsletter went to press. It now goes out to over 1,500 people.

DTE/Sierra Club Cut a Deal

Even though the Trump Administration tried to stop it, a federal judge allowed DTE and the Sierra Club to go ahead with a deal that would fully shut down three of DTE's coal plants by the end of 2022.

The agreement settled a 2010 enforcement suit alleging DTE violated New Source Review requirements by upgrading a Southeast Michigan power plant without installing needed controls for nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide.

Environmental Protection Agency air chief Bill Wehrum, whose former law firm represents DTE, admitted he had discussed the case with his superiors, but downplayed his role. He resigned last year and went into private practice.

The coal plants now definitely to be retired are: River Rouge, St. Clair, and Trenton Channel.

Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two

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Fermi License Amendment #217

Fermi's Operating License is NPF-43 and it just received its 217th License Amendment "Revision to Technical Specifications for Secondary Containment Surveillance Requirements."

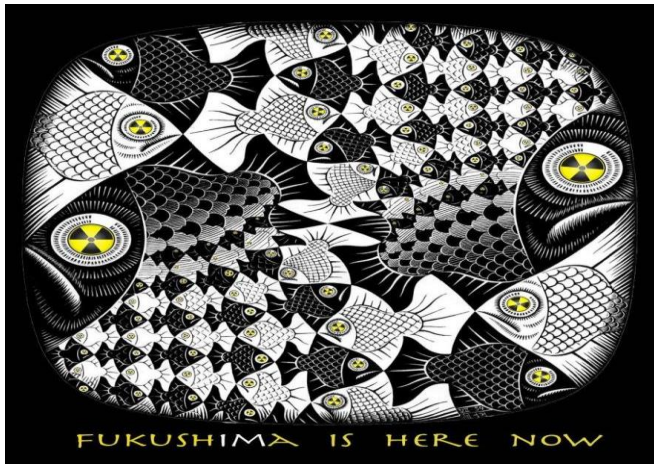
"The secondary containment is a structure that encloses the primary containment including components that may contain primary system fluid," stated the NRC's Safety Evaluation of this amendment.

Fermi has previously been written up for water level gauges dropping below the required amount and for both doors to the control room being open at the same time. Now, neither is against the rules.

Rep. Yousef Rabhi is Our Hero!

Campaign finance records show DTE and other energy companies gave over \$50,000 to intra-party rivals of state Rep. Yousef Rabhi, who serves as Democratic House Floor Leader, the caucus's number two position.

Representing Ann Arbor, Rabhi does not take campaign funds from the industry. Read the whole article here. <https://midwestenergynews.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ae5d3a0c6088cad29d71bf0d0&id=d38d6eeab0&e=5ba2058400>



Senate EPW for Uranium Reserves

The US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) approved a bill that advances initiative to establish a national uranium reserve.

The bill entitled the American Nuclear Infrastructure Act (ANIA) basically paves the way to reopening closed American uranium mines and open new ones, while forbidding uranium purchases from Russia and China.

Gov. Appoints MPSC Member

Gov. Whitmer appointed Katherine Peretick, director of engineering at Hydrostor, for the seat vacated by Sally Talberg – who took a job in Texas.

Peretick holds a Master of Science in energy systems engineering from the University of Michigan and has been named one of “40 Under 40 energy innovators and leaders.”

A Victory on Radioactive Waste

The Nuclear Information Resource Service (NIRS) organized a campaign entitled “Who’s Protecting Us?” to stop the NRC from deregulating radioactive waste so that it could be dumped in regular landfills.

They won! Yay!

Ohio’s HB 6 Battle Still Stands

Nearly five months after the Ohio politicians were arrested for racketeering, the rest of the politicians cannot sort out how to keep the corrupt bill from becoming law on Jan. 1st and charging the

average ratepayer an extra 85 cents a month to go to the nuclear companies.

“So far, we have had five federal indictments, two guilty pleas, five energy executives that have been terminated and the top utility regulator in the state has resigned,” said Rep. David Leland, D-Columbus.

A Franklin County judge blocked the collection and distribution of the House Bill 6 nuclear bailout fee, which Ohio ratepayers were scheduled to start paying this month.

Days later, the Ohio Supreme Court issued a temporary stay to stop collections until HB 6 is all sorted out and no longer Ohio law.

Zoom Warriors! Save the Date!

The NRC is planning a public meeting in February to seek opinions on “extending the time period for renewed licenses from 20 years to 40 years.”

Paul Gunter of Beyond Nuclear has been invited to represent the public, aka opposition to the craziness of letting reactors run amok.

Extending the 20-year operating license for aged, decrepit reactors is dangerous enough without giving them a blanket 40 years.

We suspect the reason might be that facility owner/operators do not have to decommission until the license expires.

The call-in number is (301)576-2978, the passcode is 235359018#. Time is 9 a.m. – noon.

Sale of Palisades to Holtec

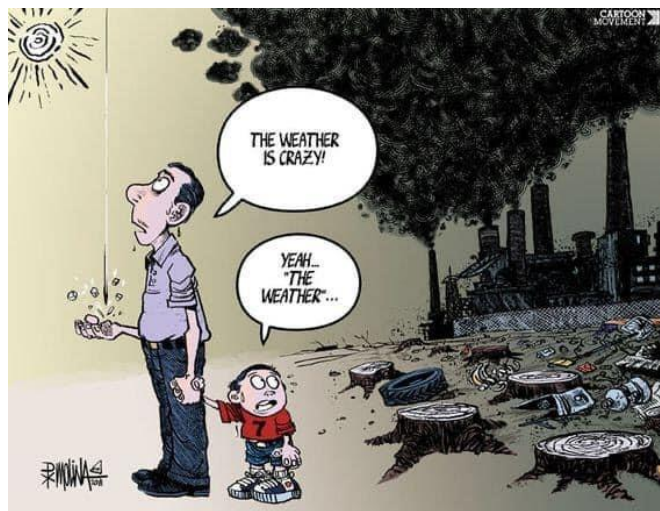
Entergy and Holtec submitted a request to the NRC for a License Transfer Application to change the official ownership of the Palisades reactor. Entergy had bought the facility from Consumers

Beyond Nuclear, Don’t Waste Michigan, and Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Great Lakes recommended Governor Whitmer against the sale.

Palisades sits on Lake Michigan’s shores and is owned and operated by Entergy which wishes to sell it to Holtec International after its final shutdown in 2022 and is ready for decommissioning. Big Rock Point in Charlevoix would be included in the sale.

The groups allege that Holtec and its partner SNC-Lavalin of Canada have a track record that “includes bribery, fraud and malfeasance, as well as

serious shortcomings in terms of financial assurance, technical qualifications, and decommissioning experience.”



Dec. Fermi Documents Received

= **ML20337A140**. NRC approves DTE plan to test new Fermi operators.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML20330A289>

= **ML20330A289**. Fermi 1 Biennial Review of Fermi 1 Safety Analysis Report. Only administration changes in the last two years. The document has some good background information on Fermi 1.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML20330A289>

= **ML20329A380**. NRC requests more info re: DTE COVID-19 exemption request. The NRC wants DTE to do more than have laptop exercises.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML20329A380>

= **ML20339A687**. DTE's Deferred payments and cash flow.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML20339A687>

= **ML20343A350**. NRC grants Fermi Exemption from Annual Force-on-Force Exercise. Of course they did, but what bothers me is why the NRC states, "maintain security at Fermi 2, while enabling the facility to continue to provide electrical power to the Nation." Are they admitting Fermi is a merchant plant?

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML20343A350>

= **ML20356A028**. NRC public meeting to renew licenses for 40 years.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML20356A028>

= **ML20294A035**. Fermi gets License Amendment #217. See article, page 1.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML20294A035>

= **ML20356A013**. The NRC review board completed its review of Paul Gunter's 2.206. See article, back page.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML20356A013>

Community Organizer's Column

Siyo (Hello in Cherokee) CRAFT Family!

I like to imagine folks are staying warm and safe as we finish out this 2020 calendar year (lol bout time) and head into the next. This December has brought a lot of action our way but there is one inspiring thing that is happening that I would most like to touch on involves CRAFT and 2021.

I would like to share that the steering committee came back together officially in December and has begun to look at and envision 2021. This is powerful for us, because when COVID-19 hit, CRAFT already had plans for the summer that included events, arts, and strategy. All plans were altered majorly, just like most of our plans in 2020. Most of what we set out to do was limited and some of it was not possible at all. Especially in the summer when DTE announced their band-aid fix for a failing and degrading spent fuel plan at Fermi 2. CRAFT had no other option but to intervene and we ended up having our request for a public hearing being denied before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

We appealed the decision and there still has not been a final ruling on that yet. This process took all hands on deck, and though it was/is a major event, it was nowhere near what we had aimed for in 2020. Now with the steering committee back together and looking at 2021, with or without lockdowns, it is a comforting feeling knowing that we are making proper adjustments and planning around the new year. I will have more to share in next month's newsletter so y'all stay tuned in.

Peace, Jesse

NRC PRB Rules on 2.206

Paul Gunter of Beyond Nuclear submitted a legal petition to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to close all the Mark 1 reactors in the U.S. until all hardened containment vent systems (HCVs) are replaced. (Fermi and Fukushima units are Mark 1s)

The filing, known as a 2.206 was submitted on October 16, 2020, and charged that the HCVs would stand up during an accident.

The NRC's Petition Review Board (PRB) countered with, "The objective of the HCV is not to be able to be used by itself to prevent containment failure. Instead, the HCV is one of a range of tools that the operators could use to prevent or mitigate an environmental release."

The PRB did offer Paul a chance to have a public meeting to discuss the issue further.



We send a shout out to True Earth that made CRAFT their focus on Giving Tuesday again this year. They raised over \$1,300 for our work.

Another shout-out to Sarah Moore who beaded CRAFT Logo medallions for Jesse and Jessie.

Do you Want to Donate to CRAFT?

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

or send a check made out to CRAFT Times.



Has the NRC Has Gone Insane?

Nuclear reactors were built to last 40 years – because of radiation damaging the metal parts, etc. Then the Nuclear Regulatory Commission extended the licenses of the facilities from 40 to 60, and then to 80, and now they are considering 100!

Read Karl Grossman's in-depth article here: <https://www.counterpunch.org/2020/12/30/inviting-nuclear-disaster/>



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