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Happy Anniversary CRAFT!

Thirty Christmases ago, the Fermi Two reactor had a major accident, and because of suspected collusion between DTE and their overseers, CRAFT was formed to try to prevent DTE from discharging the radioactive wastewater directly into Lake Erie. See the insert for details.

Here is the official NRC report of the accident. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML20063B702>

CRAFT was active for years and then fell by the wayside when some key activists moved out of state and others moved on to other issues – such as organizing to halt a Fermi 3 from happening.

Then 11 years ago this month, former CRAFT activists and I (Jessie Pauline Collins) held a meeting to revive CRAFT which we deemed necessary in these times. Now we have an organized team of dedicated warriors, but I still write the newsletter. Please join us to keep Lake Erie from dying on our watch; we need you.

NRC Gives Fermi Two Violations

The violations are “non-cited” and at most, cause workers embarrassment. One violation was for lots of assorted trash on top of the Heat Removal Complex roof, “The identified debris was generally near roof drains that led to or was directly over roof drains Natural phenomena (such as rainfall or wind gusts) could transport the debris into the reservoirs and challenge pump operation for service water.”

Fermi undergoes several distinct kinds of inspections, and this report is from the “Biennial Problem Identification and Resolution Inspection Report.” Read the full NRC report here:

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23340A032>

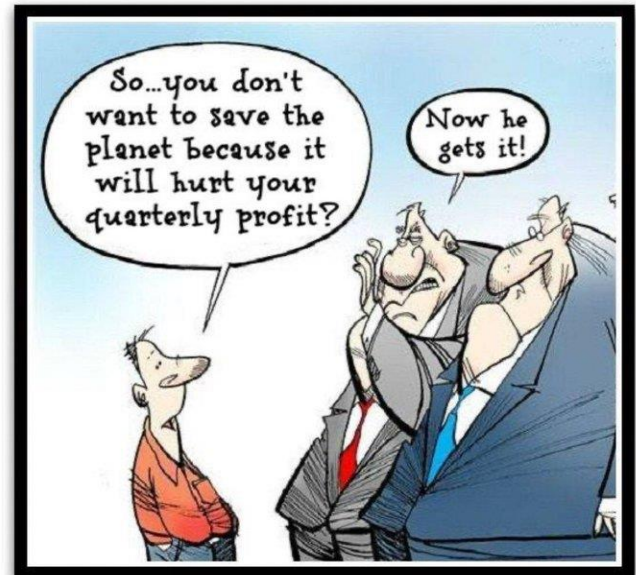
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MPSC Grants DTE another Raise.

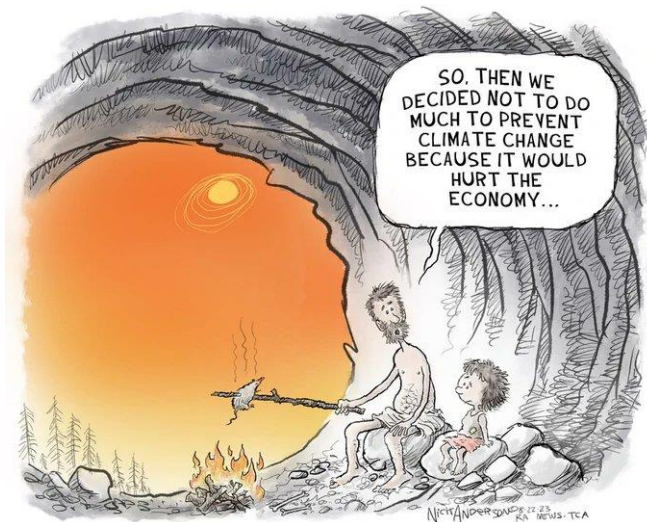
The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), which might be called the Michigan Public Service for Corporations, has granted DTE yet another rate increase – while we already pay some of the highest rates in the country with some of the worse service and outages.

Studies put Michigan’s outage rate as double the national average and our rates are currently the 11th highest in the nation – before this increase. Over 1,000 people submitted comments against the rate increase.

The MPSC also approved \$5.3 million of ratepayer money for DTE’s membership in industry organizations – that sponsored MPSC members to conferences held by those groups. (Detroit Free Press article, *Millions in DTE Membership Dues get added to Michigan Electric*)

“To force consumers to have to pay these huge fees for this participation is a little obscene,” said state Sen. Ed McBroom, R-Waucedah.

DTE plans to file for a raise in gas prices in February, and another electric rate raise in 2024.



New Lithium Source

Not on mainstream news yet is the Coal Waste Separation technology and this means cleaning up old coal mine waste and using a surprising amount of a dozen useful chemicals, like lithium, but also 11 others, including cobalt, dysprosium, gallium, germanium, graphite, iridium, manganese, neodymium, nickel, platinum, and praseodymium.

The U.S. has thousands of abandoned coal mines, with coal waste called tailing waste or slag heaps. According to a new program, those ponds and slag heaps can be mined for lithium and the other chemicals. They estimate enough lithium to supply its market for 130 years.

Lithium is needed for electric car batteries and gallium and germanium are needed for superconductors used for clean technology. Coal is on its way out and this would be effective use of its waste, and a boost to the renewable energy field.

Fermi 1 Inspection Report

Latest information in this report is “On June 15, 2023, the licensee discovered a partial collapse at the Fuel and Repair Building (FARB) high roof, NE corner. The licensee performed a structural assessment and planned for the roof repayment.”

The inspection showed that “Issues were identified by the licensee at appropriate thresholds and entered into the Corrective Action Program (CAP).”

We see no reason the Fermi 1 reactor should not be totally dismantled, and the site restored to usable real estate, except then DTE would have to use the decommissioning fund collected from the ratepayers and invested somewhere else.

Read the report here.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23334A140>

DTE’s War on Phragmites

DTE and the Nature Conservancy have partnered to remove the invasive phragmites from 150 acres on the Fermi 2 property site.

Phragmites grow in large patches that block other native plants from growing. DTE spokesperson Kristen LeForce said the phragmites are causing “environmental, social, and environmental problems.”

On October 24, a helicopter sprayed an herbicide, and then several weeks later an amphibious vehicle called a Marsh Master was used to cut the phragmites.

LeForce said the completed project will take years. We hope they are not clearing it up to start on building Fermi 3. Just saying.

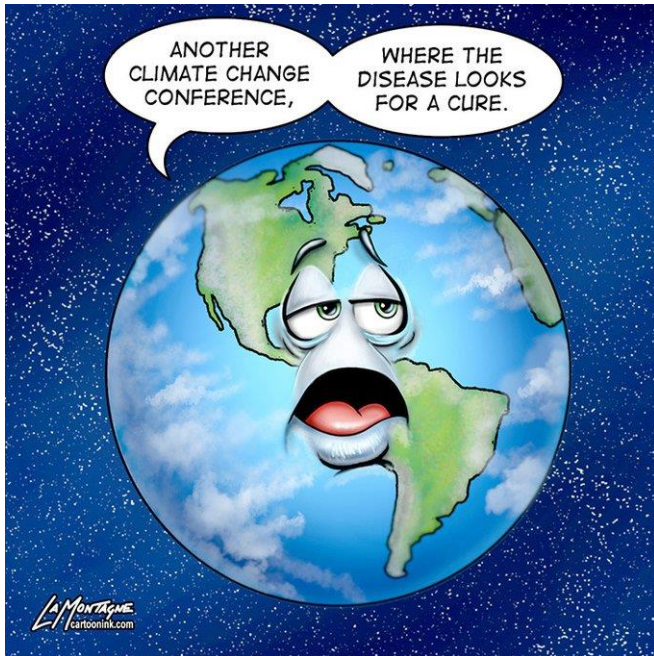
Palisades, Zombie Reactor Report

Holtec International, owner of the closed Palisades nuclear reactor announced they plan to add two Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to the Palisades site **if** the NRC lets them restart.

Called the ‘Zombie reactor’ by environmental groups intervening to stop both of those Holtec goals from becoming reality, attorneys representing three groups, Beyond Nuclear, Don’t Waste Michigan, and Michigan Safe Energy Future filed a petition requesting a public hearing detailing the safety risks.

Palisades’ final shutdown was May 20, 2022, with several safety issues, but Holtec is asking for big bucks to revive it - \$4.5 billion in state and federal aid, before plans to tap into the \$7.4 billion in Department of Energy loan guarantees.

“After the Fukushima catastrophe, the Japanese Parliament published a root cause investigation. The root cause, it concluded, was collusion between the company, the regulatory agency, and government officials,” said Kevin Kamps of Beyond Nuclear. “Such collusion exists in spades at Palisades.”



FYI – Climate Crisis News

- = A federal grand jury indicts Sam Randazzo, the former chair of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, on [bribery and embezzlement charges](#) related to the ongoing HB 6 bribery scandal investigation. (*Ohio Capital Journal*)
- = A company seeking to restart Michigan’s Palisades Nuclear Power Plant wants to [add two small reactors](#) to the site to nearly double its capacity. (*Detroit News*)
- = Michigan has emerged as [the largest center of manure biodigesters](#) outside of California, but as some are unsure what it means for the state’s water quality. (*Circle of Blue*)
- = Anti-nuclear groups call on federal regulators to [block a company’s attempt](#) to restart a nuclear plant along Lake Michigan. (*Michigan Radio*)
- = Michigan’s two largest investor-owned utilities [seek long-term funding](#), potentially through bill surcharges, to harden their electric grid in the face of more climate-related disruption. (*Bridge*)
- = Michigan's efforts to combat pollution in Lake Erie, particularly phosphorus runoff, are not yielding the desired results, with the state's top farm regulator acknowledging that [the fight against pollution in the lake is failing](#). Despite efforts to reduce phosphorus levels in the lake, algae blooms continue to threaten water quality,

- and experts are calling for more stringent measures to address the problem. (*Bridge*)
- = Ohio [significantly reduces the assessed value](#) of the Davis-Besse nuclear plant, which caught local officials off guard and is projected to cut a township’s tax revenue by \$300,000. (*WTVG*)
- = A bipartisan group of Congress members urge the U.S. Department of Energy to [expedite a decision on a loan application](#) to help restart Michigan’s Palisades Nuclear Power Plant. (*Holland Sentinel*)
- = The owner of a southwestern Michigan nuclear plant is [contesting its property tax assessment](#) which, if lowered, could cost the state and local governments millions of dollars in tax revenue. (*WSJM*)

Here’s How EGLE Rolls!

- The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) was renamed from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by Governor Gretchen Witmer when she took office, reportedly because DEQ had a bad reputation of being for industry, not for the environment. EGLE has not shown us the name change made much difference.
- For example, on December 26th, EGLE announced that the end of comments for a permit decision for a Solid Waste License Application for DTE’s Coal Ash Landfield at the Monroe Coal plant would end on December 30.
- EGLE expects a decision on whether to grant DTE’s permit by January 22, 2024. Want to lay odds on whether they get it approved?

COP28 Nuclear Nonsense

- At the recent world climate conference (headed by an oil man) the U.S. and 21 other countries called for a tripling of nuclear energy by 2050 is more fantasy than reality: “Even at best, a shift to invest more heavily in nuclear energy over the next two decades could actually worsen the climate crisis,” stated the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists.
- “On a good note, over 100 other countries went for tripling renewables!” said Jesse DeerInWater, CRAFT Community Organizer.

Dec. Fermi Documents Received

= **ML23335A006**. Fermi 2 Baseline Inspection. NRC notice of upcoming inspection where they want to see documentation on all Fermi's welds.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23335A006>

= **ML23338A279**. NRC Info on Risk Assessment for a class at the U of Michigan. 50 pages.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23338A279>

= **ML23334A190**. Request for Information for the License Renewal Inspection to verify that DTE accomplished – or intends to – its commitments before Fermi's extended license begins in 2026.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23334A190>

= **ML23333A449**. Guarantee of Payments of Deferred Premiums. In 2022, DTE lists (3,431*) (negative) balance in "Net cash used for investing activities." Does that mean they invested that much?

= **ML23243A943**. The NRC approves DTE's numbers for Decommissioning Funds for Fermi 2's Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations. They basically upgraded the 2016 number crunch to 2023 numbers. However, six more canisters were added to the concrete slab this summer, so I am thinking the numbers should have gone up.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23243A943>

= **ML23310A149**. NRC issues Fermi 2 License Amendment No. 227 to change Technical Specs. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23310A149>

= **ML23340A132**. Emails between the NRC and DTE regarding DTE's tardiness on their submittals due on November 28th.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23340A132>

= **ML23348A164**. DTE's submittal of Core Operating Limits Report for Operating Cycle 22.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23348A164>



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