



**Jan. 2022 CRAFT Times vol. 9 no. 1**  
(Fermi 2 nuclear reactor, DTE & environmental news)

### **China-U.S. Tensions Hurt Solar**

Silicon components used in the manufacturing of solar panels sold in the U.S. are produced in western China where the State Department is challenging China's detention of Chinese Muslims. Until that dispute is sorted out, shipments of solar panels and other renewable energy components have been halted.

"We're having problems getting panels in due to the international dispute," said Trevor Lauer, DTE Electric CEO of the panels needed for the completion of two planned arrays. "We have panels that are sitting outside of the country, and we cannot get those into the country."

Lauer said the completion of two arrays, a 120-megawatt solar park in Washtenaw County and a 200-megawatt solar array in Montcalm County could be pushed into 2023 because of the dispute.

DTE recently announced that its energy production increased 40 % since 2020. The sizable increase came from three new wind farms that came online in the spring. However, Lauer thinks DTE is done with wind since solar is cheaper, but that is depending on the China-US situation.

DTE's growth in renewable energy is shown in its MIGreenPower which they say more than 43,000 residential customers and 450 commercial customers are enrolled to pay extra on their monthly bills to have their power clean. DTE claims to be adding 500 customers per week to the program.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) approved DTE adding 431 megawatts to the 1.8-million-megawatt hours now in the clean energy program.

### **Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two**

(CRAFT) telephone 313-286-3827

Post Office Box 401356, Redford MI 48240

[shutdownfermi@gmail.com](mailto:shutdownfermi@gmail.com)

[www.facebook.com/groups/51956598157696/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/51956598157696/)

<https://shutdownfermi.org>



### **Fermi Begins Down-Powering**

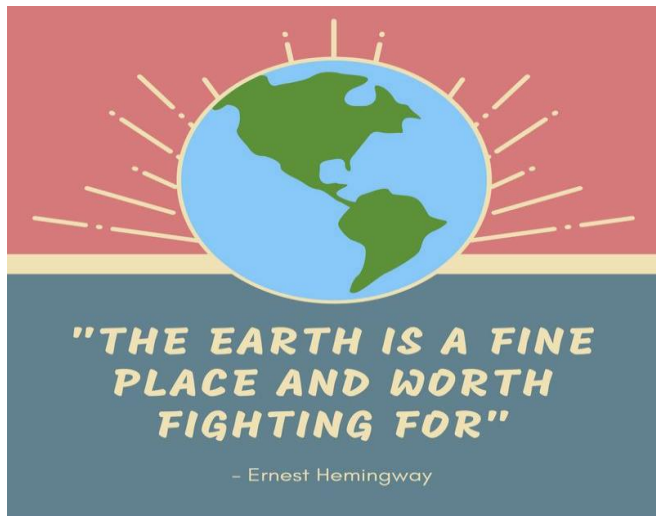
Fermi began down powering in November by one degree per week. We emailed NRC spokesperson Viktoria Mitlyng who assured us DTE was down powering to make repairs. We asked her if DTE was getting ready for a refueling outage and she said no.

Then on December 11<sup>th</sup>, an article in the Monroe paper said the action was a "coast down" until the reactor reached 59 % power where it will stay until the refueling outage in February 2022. It reached 58% on the 20<sup>th</sup> and stayed there the rest of the month.

Currently one third of the fuel loaded consists of high burn-up fuel (HBU Fuel) known as GNF-3. The GNF-3 is enriched between 8-10%, a trade secret. The NRC is allowing up to 10% U-235 enrichment to be classified as HBU Fuel.

At each refueling outage one-third of fuel is replaced, currently to an 18-month fuel cycle. With HBU Fuel a 24-month fuel cycle is the goal. If Fermi 2 emerges from Refueling Outage 21 (RFO 21) they will then have two-thirds HBU Fuel - Still an experiment.

There will be one more RFO 22 until Fermi 2 has entire fuel load of HBU Fuel. At that point Fermi 2 will move to a 24-month RFO schedule.



## Fermi Requests COVID Relief

DTE requested another exemption to the Fermi workers hours in what seems to be a horrible schedule. (*We do not like Fermi but do understand that the workers need the job, or they would not be there. I have a relative that works at a reactor – not Fermi – and we understand each other’s position.*)

“A resurgence in COVID-19 in Michigan and the area immediately surrounding Fermi 2 has led to the new exemption request in this letter,” stated the document. “DTE is requesting approval of this request based on an expected need for the exemption given the current trend of COVID-19 conditions.”

Here is what they want for workers: a max of 16 hours in any 24-hour period, and not more than 86-workhours in a 7-day period; a 10-hour break between work periods; 12-hour shifts limited to 14 consecutive days; and 6 days off in 30-day period.

And the NRC granted the request.

## DTE’s Cash Flow for 2020

It would take an accountant to completely decipher DTE’s Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for three years ending December 31, 2020 (audited) and for the nine months ending September 30, 2021 (unaudited).

There is a line for “Proceeds from sale of nuclear decommissioning trust fund assets,” and another line for “Investment in nuclear decommissioning trust funds.” The numbers were the same. DTE saw \$2,350 million (\$2,350 million means 2 billion, 350 million) in profits, which they reinvested. DTE collects approximately \$3 million per year from

ratepayers for Fermi’s decommissioning and the NRC lets DTE invest those funds wherever.

## Solar Arrays Are Reality

Pittsfield Township unanimously approved plans for a 20-megawatt solar farm built by DTE on Ann Arbor-owned land in that township. The plans call for sixty-five acres of ground-mounted solar panels and 12 acres of floating panels on a pond behind the Wheeler Center maintenance facility. The array will fire up in 2023.

In Monroe County, a 20-megawatt farm, Temperance Solar, was built in 2020 in Erie Township on the former site of the B.L. Cousino hay and straw mill. Two other solar arrays are in the works there – as is opposition to solar. See Save the Date on the next page.

## Fermi’s Biennial Inspection

In November, the NRC completed a Biennial Problem Identification and Resolution Inspection and reported “the team concluded that the licensee’s implementation of the Corrective Action Program was generally effective with opportunities for improvements.”

The inspections uncovered stressful working conditions during worker interviews, “Some described mistrust within work groups, due in part to the newness of supervisors brought in from outside the organizations. The licensee is aware of these issues and is developing actions to address these concerns via CARD 21-29964.”

Corrective action resolution documents (CARDs) are promises made to fix things gone awry, but they are inaccessible to the public. Another CARD issue was for the low oil level in the mechanical draft cooling tower gear reducer. Rules say it must stay full of oil.

The inspectors also reviewed CARDs from 2019 and 2020. And issued new CARDs for the issues not dealt with yet.

## DTE, Consumers Seek Special Rates for Business

Michigan’s two largest utilities got busy after Ford chose to site new operations in Kentucky and Tennessee, in part because of lower electric rates.

Michigan has among the highest rates in the U.S. and so Consumers and DTE got together and petitioned the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) to let them lower their rates for large development projects.

“I’m under NDAs (Non-Disclosure Agreement) with a whole series of auto companies,” said Trevor Lauer, DTE Electric’s CEO of the need for MPSC to process their request quickly. “I’d say time is of the essence.”

The MPSC met and CRAFT Co-chair bore witness. “While we at CRAFT applaud the MPSC for putting a cap on the DTE rate hike cash grab, we are concerned that an annual limit will serve as a target rather than a maximum,” said Jim Sherman.



## **DTE & Consumers & Bribes?**

A *Detroit News* article said that DTE and Consumers’ PACs gave \$23,250 to 11 out of 16 members of the House Energy Committee just five days before the committee hearing featured a CEO.

Sad to say the Committee has blocked House Bill 4236, which would allow more rooftop solar projects.

“DTE and Consumers’ cozy relationship with lawmakers is detrimental to Michiganders and will continue to be a problem,” said Bob Allison of Michigan League of Conservation Voters. “The utilities and their lobbyists shelled out \$55 million over the past five years to protect this broken status quo while lawmakers simply take their money, ask them softball questions and turn a blind eye to the financial struggles families and businesses are facing by paying the highest electricity rates in the Midwest.”

“A rose by any other name is still a rose.”  
(William Shakespeare)

## **Our Newsletter’s Resolution**

This issue begins the ninth year this newsletter has advocated DTE phase out the Fermi nuclear reactor and produce all our energy sustainably. Our resolution is that it will happen this year.

## **Save the Date – to Stand for Solar**

Monroe County is not only home to the nuclear dragon we wish to slay but has become the focus point of the war against solar.

A group named NotoSolar brought in a professor for a meeting in December entitled “Save the Farms!” His talk focused on the amount of land solar arrays use and the cost to decommission them. The No to Solar literature stresses “Your community and its agricultural heritage are at risk.”

Sun 101, the pro-solar group, will present a talk by Peter Sinclair on how solar is benefiting rural communities. His talk will be Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022, from 7 – 8:30 p.m. at the VFW Post 3925, 1944 Erie Road, Erie, MI 48133.

## **FYI – No Room for These Articles**

= Sophee Langerman, a former Monroe resident and current a master’s student at the University of Michigan, wrote a great guest column in the Monroe News on why Monroe needs to invest in Community Solar, as opposed to investor-owned utilities (IOU).

= DTE awarded more than \$1 million in 'Holiday Help' grants to 10 Michigan organizations that support children and families in underserved populations.

= The NRC Approved the license transfer for Palisades and Big Rock nuclear reactors from Entergy Nuclear Operations to Holtec International, as owner, and Holtec Decommissioning International as decommissioner. Environmental groups tried to block the sale, but it did not happen.

## **CRAFT Public Zoom Meeting**

This is an invitation to attend a zoom meeting with the CRAFT Steering Committee Team on



Thursday January 16<sup>th</sup> 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>

## Dec. Fermi Documents Received

= **ML21307A033**. Report stating no change to Fermi 3 plans since last report.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21307A033>

= **ML21340A030**. Work Hour Limit Exemption Request due to COVID-19. See page 2???

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21340A030>

= **ML21336A391**. DTE's Cash Flow for three years, ending 2020, audited, and nine months of 2021, unaudited.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21336A391>

= **ML21340A138**. Biennial Problem Identification and Resolution Inspection Report. See page 2.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21340A138>

**ML21327A104, 106, 095**. All forms dealing with operator testing.

**ML21340A144**. Security Baseline Inspection Report. A violation was noted, but the report was marked "Security Related Information" and only the cover letter is available to the public.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21340A144>

= **ML16062A055**. A 2016 letter – just filed – regarding problems with Fermi's Turbine Stop Valves that needed corrective action.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML16062A055>

= **ML21340A245**. NRC Grants Covid Relief.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21340A245>

= **ML21351A345**. Inspection Report "Temporary Instruction..." Inspectors found all was well with three exceptions: Fermi uses a hybrid circuit design; had not developed adequate testing and calibration for the ammeters; and Fermi's Updated Final Safety Analysis Report has not been updated.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21351A345>

= **ML21133A335**. Fermi Control Point Hazard and Response. (46.96 N, 83.26 E)

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21133A335>



## *CRAFT Times*

Post Office Box 401356

Redford MI 48240