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Fermi's NPDES Permit

Fermi 2's renewed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit has not been issued yet, but we continue to monitor the situation to call attention to Fermi's thermal pollution.

In 2019, Fermi 2's discharge was an average of 26.7 degrees (F) above Lake Erie's temperature. In 2020, the discharge was an average of 24.7 degrees above Lake Erie's temperature. In 2021 the discharge was 26.9 degrees. The high for these years was 46 degrees in February of 2019.

The Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to provide a list of waters that are impaired for water quality and submit to the EPA for approval a total maximum daily load (TMDL) for the pollutant causing the impairment.

Lake Erie is listed as impaired, but Michigan has not submitted a TMDL for it or for Fermi's discharge of thermal pollution or phosphorous the state blames only on farmers. We urge the Michigan Department of Energy and Great Lakes Environment (EGLE) to set limits and a TMDL in Fermi's new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit.

The brief mention of thermal discharge regulations in DTE's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) is that Section 316(a) of the CWA regulates heated discharges through the NPDES process – which EGLE issues. The IRP states that the cooling towers at Fermi fulfil the requirements and DTE plans to do biological studies on the biological effects of the Monroe Plant's heated discharge **in 2024!**

DTE states Fermi's cooling towers are all that's needed. Lake Erie needs our help.

Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two

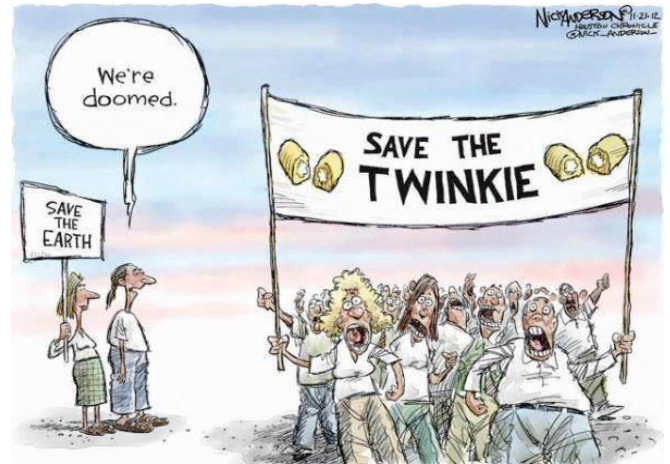
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Politicians Give Nuclear Industry a Holiday Present

On December 22, 2022, the Senate passed S.3428, "A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a Nuclear Fuel Security Program, expand the American Assured Fuel Supply Program, and submit a report on a civil nuclear credit program, and for other purposes."

The act will fast-forward efforts to obtain more uranium by any means necessary, short of buying it outright from Russia. There are little loopholes like someone could be an alien, but living in an U.S. ally country, or a corporation.

Domestic mining will be increased, as well as reprocessing radioactive waste to produce High-Assay, low-enriched uranium (HALEU), which the new reactor designs are meant to run on, but also some of the United States operating reactor are using HALEU.

Formerly, reactor grade uranium was enriched from 3% to 5%, but HALEU is enriched up from 5% to 20% Fermi loaded HALEU at its last refueling outage. Each refueling outage replaced one-third of the fuel rods. A reactor with all HALEU rods would only have to refuel every 24 months instead of 18. The act reads like the HALEU is for future use, but Fermi is not the only U.S. loading it.



Fermi's Cooling System Inoperable

At the end of November, DTE filed Event Notification 56241 because Fermi's High Pressure Coolant Injection System (HPCI) was inoperable. Had there been an accident, the area would have been in serious trouble. But it didn't happen, so why are we reporting this now?

Because the HPCI was reported inoperable on August 17, 2022, in Event Report 56054; September 30, 2019 (ML19273A053); September 29, 2018 (ML18272A002); September 9, 2017 (Event Number 52958); and August 25, 2016 (Event No. 52204). That's at least once per year, that should there be an accident, the HPCI cooling water would be unavailable.

Which Side are you on?

A December 8, 2022, article in *Planet Detroit* by Tom Perkins went in-depth to show how DTE spreads money around to influence policy. Here are two quotes from the article.

"They're on spending sprees because they want to control Lansing to keep their power," said Yousef Rabhi (D-Ann Arbor) whom industry spent \$50,000 backing his opponents. "If DTE can buy out the regulators who are supposed to hold them accountable, then they don't have to worry about accountability."

"We owe it to our customers and employees to support candidates for public office that help us meet our purpose of providing safe, reliable, affordable and clean energy for the 3 million plus residents and businesses we serve every day," said DTE spokesperson Peter Tenes.

We are sorry to see Rabhi leave the Michigan State House, but we know that he will do good as the Washtenaw County Commissioner.

Holtec re-applies for Palisades

"This [zombie reactor nightmare](#) at Palisades must come to an end, once and for all," said Kevin Kamps of Beyond Nuclear and Don't Waste Michigan. "Thank goodness no such nuclear nightmare unfolded at Palisades during its 51 years of ever more high-risk operations."

<https://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/2022/12/owner-of-nuclear-power-plant-along-lake-michigan-to-try-again-at-restarting.html>

DTE's Plans for Coal in its IRP

DTE's Integrated Resource Plan has stated the utility's plans to close their Monroe operations, one of the biggest coal plants in the country. The 3,086MW, four-unit plant located near the Ohio border, had been set to run until 2040.

In the new plan, DTE would close two units 12 years earlier and the second two units five years earlier. This is noteworthy because Monroe has been the third-largest emitter of carbon dioxide in the U.S. for the past decade, averaging more than 16 million tons annually.

The company's change of direction can be traced directly to the IRA, and its expanded and extended tax credits for renewables and battery storage. DTE expects that they will have to install new cooling water intake screens at Monroe Coal Plant to prevent fish intake and a fish return system.

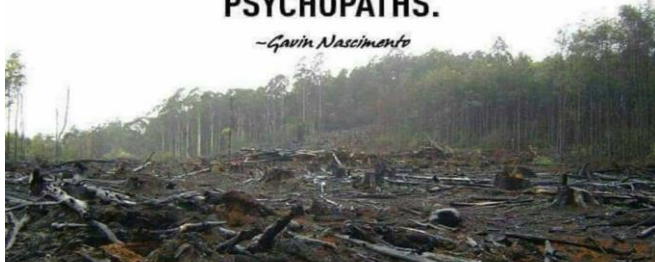
License Amendment Request

DTE submitted a License Amendment Request (LAR) to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to change the Alternating Current for Fermi 2's Emergency Diesel Generator Voltage and Frequency in Fermi's Technical Specifications.

The onsite standby power source at Fermi 2 consists of four Emergency Diesel Generators (EDG) separated into two independent divisions;" states the filing document, adding the proposed amendment would modify Fermi's Technical Specifications by "decreasing the maximum steady state voltage and revising the steady state frequency range for EDG testing."

**THE PROBLEM IS NOT THAT
THERE IS A LACK OF
MONEY, FOOD, WATER, OR LAND.
THE PROBLEM IS WE'VE GIVEN CONTROL
OF THESE RESOURCES TO
PSYCHOPATHS.**

-Gavin Nascimento



Fermi 2's Event Number 56241

On November 28, 2022, the Mechanical Draft Cooling Tower (MDCT) Fan was making such a loud metallic noise and reactor operators shut it down and declared it inoperable.

And then on December 9, 2022, DTE filed a follow-up saying that it was a mistake and that grinding noises are normal at low speeds. End of investigation. *Seriously? Are we to believe that?*

FYI – In the News!

= Detroit-based DTE Energy says it is on track to reach a 2050 net zero carbon emissions goal, though critics say the utility's own data show it relying on significant amounts of natural gas beyond 2050. (*Metro Times*)

= DTE Energy officially retires two southeastern Michigan coal plants as it transitions to more clean energy. (*CBS Detroit*)

= Highland Park, a city surrounded by Detroit now has federal funding to support its plan for self-generation and microgrids to wean off its dependence on DTE Energy. (*Bridge Michigan*)

= The operator of a recently shuttered southwestern Michigan nuclear plant will reapply for federal subsidies in an attempt to reopen the plant. (*Detroit News*)

= Advocates say Democratic lawmakers in Michigan have a chance to reform the state's environmental regulations and rulemaking to better protect environmental justice communities. (*Planet Detroit*).

= What countries dominate the solar supplies?
<https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/solar/chart-which-country-dominates-the-solar-supply-chain>

DTE's 2019-2022 Cash Flow

DTE filed their "Guarantee of Payment of Deferred Premiums" which is the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows for three years ending December 31, 2021, audited and for nine months of 2022, unaudited.

While we wish a Certified Public Accountant would read the document and explain nuances to us, such as "Proceeds from sale of nuclear decommissioning trust fund assets was \$1,047 million in 2021, but the investment in nuclear decommissioning trust funds was negative (1,046 million.)"

And in the first nine months of 2022, their proceeds from sale of nuclear decommissioning trust fund assets were \$707 million, and their investment in the nuclear decommissioning trust funds was \$710 million. How does that work?

We see from the bottom line in the documents that DTE is making money without a rate increase.

Public Hearing on DTE's IRP

Lots of people called in to say they want DTE's coal plants closed as soon as possible. The way the hearing was organized was you called in and either typed a comment or waited on the line until your name was called to make an oral comment.

Jim Sherman and Jesse DeerInWater called in at the beginning – 4 PM – and Jessie Pauline Collins called in at 4:30, but somehow all three were called on to speak back-to-back.

Nuclear Energy 2022 Review

Nuclear energy fell to 9.8 percent of global power generation in 2021, its lowest level since the 1980s, even though nuclear power provides 20 percent of U.S. electricity from the 92 light-water reactors that were built the 1970 and 1980s. The U.S. generates more nuclear than any other country, followed by China.

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provides generous credits for existing nuclear plants and added premiums for meeting prevailing-wage

requirements. These credits offer a \$30 billion lifeline to struggling reactors.

Diablo Canyon, California's last nuclear reactor was given up to \$1.1 billion from the U.S. Department of Energy to allow the two reactors to continue operating, despite plans to close it in 2025.

The IRA offers production credits for existing nuclear reactors and added premiums for meeting prevailing-wage requirements. These credits offer up to \$30 billion to reactors at risk of retirement.

Dec. Fermi Documents Received

= **ML22292A003**. Termination of Belle River Material License. Discusses three licenses, but only two leak test results.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22292A003>

= **ML22333A825**. Guaranteed Deferred Premiums. See article, page 3.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22333A825>

= **ML22271A786**. Request for Termination of Material License 21-02335.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22271A786>

= **Event Number 56241**. See Article, page 2.

= **ML22350A504**. License Amendment Request. See Article, page 2.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22350A504>



Happy Anniversary to Us!

This issue begins ten years of publication. While one may say, “and you are still griping about Fermi?” And the answer would be, “yes, because they are still polluting Lake Erie with their thermal and radioactive pollution.” And we will stop when Fermi stops.

We have seen some positive changes over the years, such as we now have resources to print the newsletter and a full-time Community Organizer to help raise public awareness. Also, a couple of thousand people now get the newsletter online and another thousand in our Facebook group, and a web page!

You can help by organizing a local meeting – or house party – and we will send a speaker and informational handouts. Also, we can send multiply copies of the newsletter for handouts or placement in a public place such as your local library. They are now available at Belleville, Redford, and Monroe's Ellis libraries.



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