



July 2021 *CRAFT Times* vol. 8 no. 7

(Fermi 2 nuclear reactor & other environmental news)

DTE Seeks Donors for Solar Farms

The Michigan Public Service Commission approved DTE's plan to build new solar farms in Detroit, Highland Park and River Rouge. But DTE would cover only some of the costs and is looking for donations and government grants to cover the rest. (Who would get the profits?)

If the money is raised, DTE would offer credits off \$25 - \$30 per month to low-income ratepayers.

A one-megawatt solar array takes 10 acres of land and costs a couple of million dollars. DTE's plan is to add 800 megawatts of renewable energy projects in Michigan by 2025.

DTE also has a program called MIGreenPower that allows people to pay extra to help fund renewable projects.

DTE had \$1.4 billion in operating earnings in 2020.

Fermi's Performance Webinar

The NRC sent out two notices on June 1st, (too late to be in the June newsletter) on their annual meeting to tell us how great Fermi is doing. Because of the pandemic, it was not in-person.

It was difficult to tune into the Webinar since there was a link to get in to the visual graphics and another call-in number to hear the audio.

The officials spent about five minutes saying all is well at Fermi. Two CRAFT persons made it in and were able to make comments. Others were discouraged in the way the NRC planned.

Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two

(CRAFT) telephone 313-286-3827

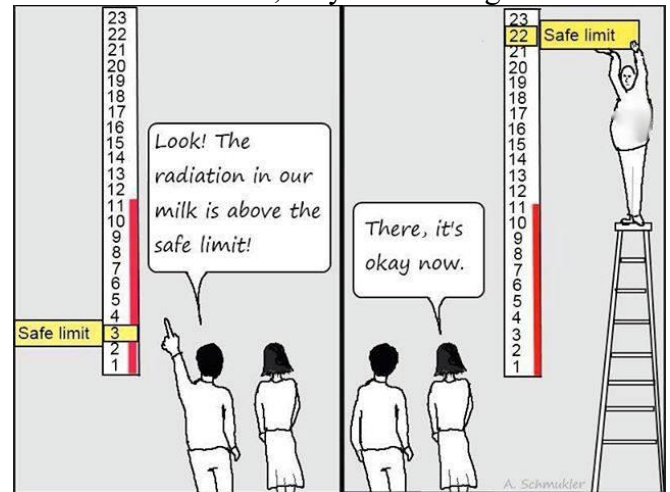
Post Office Box 401356, Redford MI 48240

shutdownfermi@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/groups/51956598157696/

<https://shutdownfermi.org>

The limits, they are a'changin'



Fermi's Evacuation Plan, Part 1

Every year DTE puts out an *Emergency Preparedness for Monroe and Wayne Counties* booklet stating, "This booklet contains information that could be useful in the event of an emergency at the Fermi 2 Nuclear Energy Facility."

Other agencies cooperated in the plan, including the Michigan State Police and Homeland Security. The plan only deals with a 10-mile radius of Fermi, although major accidents in the world have evacuated people from much farther out.

The booklet is lengthy, so we will provide highlights in monthly segments – starting with this issue. It is mailed to people within the 10-miles. If you live outside that radius, you can get a booklet by calling the Emergency Management Division in Monroe County at 734.240.3135 or Wayne County at 734.728.3711.

The siren system covers a 10-mile radius and is tested the last Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. Otherwise, "A 3-minute steady siren blast will be used to alert you of an emergency at Fermi 2, plus tornadoes and other weather emergencies. When you hear sirens, go indoors, and turn your radio on."



But Not Fermi 1's Waste?

Last month, the Department of Energy (DOE) sent out a "Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Treatment and Management of Sodium-Bonded Spent Nuclear Fuel – Summary."

However, their cover letter was dated July 14, 2000, but is of interest to us because it discusses Fermi 1's waste. Fermi 1 was a breeder reactor which was sodium cooled instead of water cooled.

"DOE has selected electrometallurgical treatment as its preferred alternative for the treatment and management of all sodium-bonded spent nuclear fuel except for the Fermi 1 blanket fuel," the document stated. "The No Action Alternative is preferred for the Fermi-1 blanket spent nuclear fuel."

Fermi 1 was among three breeder reactors being sodium cooled. Sodium is highly volatile when exposed to water, "metallic sodium reacts with water to produce explosive hydrogen gas and corrosive sodium hydroxide; but could affect operation of a geologic repository."

"After Fermi 1 was shut down, the blanket assemblies were placed into 14 canisters and transported to the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center in 1974 and 1975 in 14 shipments," and there they remain – 34 metric tons of heavy metals.

The document tells us that the best disposal method for all the sodium waste is borosilicate glass, a type of glass with silica and boron trioxide as the main constituents. Pyrex is an example, but surely, they will not make the bowls and dishes, etc., out of nuclear waste.

Severe Accident Management Guidelines (SAMG)

Two years ago, DTE committed to making changes in their SAMG by May 31st. Despite having had the time to do so, on May 28th of this year, they notified the NRC they could not.

They have made changes in two volumes but not all six. And there could be a snag after that. "Due to emergent issues and a recently identified potential additional change involving spent fuel pool level, it is unlikely that the remaining four volumes will be formally implemented..."

Now, they reset their deadline to December 31st.

Fermi's License Amendment #221

Last month, Fermi's license got amended for the 220th time, this month's is for the 221st time. It will likely take them years to get the manual changed to show the amendment.

"The proposed changes to the Technical Specifications would revise the definitions of channel calibration and channel functional tests to indicate that the step must be performed within the most limiting frequency for the components included in that step by adding the phrase, 'and each step must be performed within the Frequency in the Surveillance Frequency Control Program for the devices included in the step' at the end of each definition."

There is a page that says to remove three existing conditions and replace them with three others – but we are not told what. It is likely that change made DTE's time worthwhile for this amendment.

Monroe News Fermi 2 Editorials

The Monroe News ran two opinions – pro and con – about the health effects of nuclear power on the communities where they are located. In this case, Fermi 2.

The pro-Fermi editorial was done by Pete Dietrich, DTE's Chief Nuclear Officer. He says Fermi is safe and anti-nukers distort the truth.

The con-Fermi was done the Radiation and Public Health Project asking people to send in baby teeth to prove the uptake of radioactive materials.

The paper added a disclaimer that they do not agree with the Tooth Fairy Project.



Diablo Canyon's Thermal Pollution

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) will pay \$5.9 million for the Diablo Canyon nuclear reactor's thermal pollution into the ocean. Diablo Canyon is expected to close within the decade.

The money goes to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Board and recognized the long-term impacts of dumping heated water back into the ocean after running it through the cooling towers.

"We take protecting water quality and marine habitat very seriously," said the board's chair. "The board intends to apply the settlement funds toward high priority water quality projects in alignment with statewide priorities associated with environmental justice..." (Sounds good, stay tuned to see if they follow through on their words.)

Besides the \$5.9 million settlement, PG&E is already making annual payments to mitigate the impacts of the thermal discharge.

The board spokesperson said that despite the negative impact, "there are no feasible technological alternatives or modifications that can be made to prevent the thermal discharges."

Opponents had long tried to get something done about the reactor's thermal pollution but were ignored until the shutdown was announced.

Sounds familiar to us. We at CRAFT have been trying to call attention to the thermal discharge at Fermi and have been ignored.

The Diablo Canyon article says that the ocean temperature near the discharge pipes is 20% higher than at the intake pipes and "creates an artificial ecosystem and damages algae and small fish."

The water around Fermi is 19% higher than anywhere else on Lake Erie. It would be nice to stop the thermal pollution before DTE announces Fermi's permanent shutdown.

June Fermi Documents Received

= **ML21140A434**. EIS for DOE's Sodium cooled spent fuel disposal. See, page 2. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21140A434>

= **ML21152A296** & **ML21153A119**. Announcements of Fermi 2's Annual Open House Meeting – by Webinar, this year.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21152A296>

= **ML21147A495**. DTE response to NRC's Request for Additional Information re; DTE's Relief from testing for Fourth Ten-Year. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21147A495>

= **ML21158A293**. Security Baseline Inspection Report. Because of the pandemic, it was done by reviewing DTE's submitted documents.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21158A293>

= **ML21148A017**. Notification of Schedule Change for Fermi Commitment re: Severe Accident Management Guidelines (SAMG). See page 2. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21148A017>

= **ML21147A506**. NRC request for info on Fermi's emergency plan changes inspection. The inspection will be done in office on requested documents.

= **ML21153A046**. License Operator Application Withdrawn.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21153A046>

= **ML21147A167**. Fermi gets License Extension #231. See article, page 2. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21147A167>

= **ML21159A054**. Temporary Exemption from Biennial Emergency Preparedness Exercise. The NRC granted this because DTE said, "Subsequently, there has been a resurgence in

COVID-19 in Michigan and the area surrounding Fermi 2.”

(Then why did our governor lift the restrictions?)

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21159A054>

What's Happening in China?

Radiation is coming from a nuclear reactor in China – although Chinese officials dispute news stories about the world's first operational Evolutionary Power Reactor (EPR) located 85-miles west of Hong Kong.

The reactor design is French made and the French tried to get an exemption from the US NRC from warning people there could be a flaw. The NRC did not allow the exemption.

The cause of the radioactivity is believed to have occurred through tiny cracks in at least five or more of fuel rods in the reactor core.

There are four other EPR projects still under construction around the world. A joint application by EPR and US-based Constellation Energy to construct a reactor in MD was withdrawn following a successful legal intervention by a coalition of no-nukes group that included Beyond Nuclear. (YAY!)

History has shown us that just because a “product” is new, that does not make it safe. Check out EPR at Wikipedia.



To Mitchell Maricque for his donation!

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.

Or if you want it to be tax-deductible, make the donation out to Beyond Nuclear, (6930 Carroll Ave., Ste. 400, Takoma Park, MD 20912) and put FBO CRAFT in the memo line. Or to donate online, contact Cindy Folkers at cindy@beyondnuclear.org

CRAFT Folk Zoom Meeting

On Thursday July 22nd at 5:30 p.m., you are invited to attend a zoom meeting with the CRAFT Steering Committee Team. Hopefully, we will be able to go back to In-Person meetings, but not yet.

Here is the link for the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6559569802?pwd=ajMvRE5TNmVJaW1iWIRJalV2dnhZdz09>



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