



July 2022 *CRAFT Times* vol. 9 no. 7

Fermi SCRAMs in Turbine Trip

On June 24th, Fermi was at 100% power when the reactor automatically scrammed due to a reactor protection system (RPS) actuation, following a Main Turbine Trip. DTE's filed report stated the cause is not known at this time.

"Operations responded and stabilized the plant. Reactor water level has been recovered and maintained at the normal level. Decay heat is being removed by the Main Steam system to the main condenser using the Turbine Bypass Valves," stated the Event No. 55964 report.

According to a *Toledo Blade* article, the cause was "an electrical issue outside the plant caused the main turbine to shut down." The article also said that Fermi feeds its electricity into a "13-state regional electric grid operated by PJM (an Ohio grid operator)."

"Non-Emergency" rating on the NRC scale simply means the plant didn't melt down or blow up," said Jesse DeerInWater CRAFT Organizer. Fermi returned to full power on June 29th.

In researching the severity of this event, we contacted Samuel Miranda, retired NRC inspector. During the conversation, we asked if "scram" just meant shutdown and he responded by telling us where the word came from - during the days of the first reactor ever built - yes, by Enrico Fermi.

"There was a control rod that was used to shut down the original Fermi reactor, which was located under the stands at the Univ of Chicago. It was hanging just above the core, by a rope. There was a man, with an ax, who would cut the rope and allow the rod to drop into the core and shut down the reactor. He was the Safety Control Rod Ax Man (SCRAM)," said Miranda.

Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two

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The environment is in us,
not outside of us. The trees
are our lungs, the rivers our
bloodstream, and what you
do to the environment,
ultimately, you do
to yourself.

Ian Somerhalder

Fermi's Lake Erie Discharge

The Fermi 2 nuclear reactor is legally allowed to withdraw 45.1 million gallons per day of Lake Erie water to cool the reactor and then discharge the heated water – along with nasty chemicals – back into the lake. That permit is up for renewal.

The official permit name is National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), and the official number is MI0037028. We cannot stop the renewal of the permit, but we can make it safer if officials know we are paying attention.

Lake Erie is the shallowest of the Great Lakes and the heat from both Fermi's cooling discharge and the discharge from DTE's Monroe coal facility, heat the water up which jumpstarts algal blooms and invites invasive species.

"Water is Life" is more than a catchy saying. It is a call to action – just because a person does not understand the workings of a nuclear reactor does not mean they do not have the common sense to know Lake Erie can't stand continued abuse. A good first step is to let Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) you want to receive notifications. Contact Elaine Wild at wilde2@michigan.gov.



Michigan Saves

(The nation's first green non-profit bank)

Detroit is home to the country's first non-profit "green bank" and is partnering with DTE among other institutions to loan poor people money to weatherize their homes.

However, those families with shut-off notices need not apply - nor people living below the poverty line. To qualify for a low interest loan, homeowners need to have income between 200-300% of the federal poverty level.

Businesses are also eligible for all energy remodeling including roofs, solar panels, and electric charging stations.

DTE's Dark Money in California

Seventy-three climate activist groups told the California Air Resources Board (CARB) that it is a bad idea to allow carbon emissions to be captured at polluting facilities and stored underground. They say the technology is unproved and would leave front-line communities vulnerable.

However, the ARB believes carbon capture will play a useful role in the climate fight. They back up that belief with a study done by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory located in the Bay Area. But what about that study?

Livermore received a massive grant to survey residents on their views on climate change and carbon capture. The survey provided a means to sell the carbon capture idea. But to follow the money, the grant came from the Clean And Sustainable Energy Fund aka the CASE Fund.

CASE's tax filing revealed all its money came from one organization, Michigan Energy First, whose three of four directors are DTE employees as are three of CASE's board members.

Why would DTE seek to influence California legislation? DTE owns several generating stations there including biomass plants in Bakersfield, Woodland and at the Port of Stockton. These plants will take wood waste and burn it for electricity, and a DTE study "California Carbon Storage Initiative" explains how federal tax credits could make carbon capture and storage "commercially viable for the first time."

CASE money also funded an educational toolkit for area teachers to use called "Carbon Capture and Storage in the Delta or Kern Region."

DTE spokesperson Pete Ternes said DTE "is on the record saying that we believe we can achieve and 80% reduction in carbon emissions with existing technologies including wind and solar with the remaining 20% coming from other technologies, including carbon capture."

That brings us back to why DTE is putting money into California's political business. CARB supports the statement that underground rock formations in the Central Valley "represent world-class carbon dioxide storage sites" and could hold a great deal of carbon capture.

Holtec Owns Palisades & Big Rock

"When will we have our day in court?" asked Terry Lodge, legal counsel for environmental groups opposed to the transfer of nuclear licenses to Holtec, a privately-owned decommissioning company.

"We requested a public hearing over a year ago," said Kevin Kamps of Beyond Nuclear to Holtec's announced takeover of the permanently shut down Palisades and Big Rock Point nuclear reactors despite public opposition.

"There is no way to unload the high-level radioactive waste from an already known defective VSC-24 cask," said Michael Keegan of Don't Waste Michigan. "Lake Michigan is eating away the Palisades shoreline, and systematic ignorance of this unaddressed problem is 'Criminal Negligence' by the NRC."

"Holtec is currently trying to dump primary coolant water from the shuttered nuke they own in Massachusetts directly into Plymouth Bay. We worry that they might try the same with the Lake," said Joseph DeMare of Unplug Nuclear Power.

REMEMBER

when all those kids got asthma from solar panel exhaust, toxic wind turbine ash got into your food, and clean energy contaminated the drinking water?

...YEAH, ME NEITHER.

DTE's Source Material Licenses

A series of filings in the NRC Public Library dealt with updating the licenses of DTE's Source Material Licenses. What is "Source Material?"

Google tells us that "Ores that contain uranium, thorium, or any combination thereof, at one-twentieth of one percent or more by weight are source materials." It also tells us source material is licensed so it does not end up in a bomb somewhere. Google it for in-depth explanation.

Since it seemed strange that DTE was updating four separate Source Material licenses, we asked the NRC for an explanation of one license.

"No. 21-02335-12 is a byproduct materials license authorizing DTE to possess and use fixed gauges containing sealed sources of radioactive material. The gauges are used for measuring the properties of materials in pipes and other process equipment at their coal power plants. The one you're referring to is for the Belle River Power Plant. Each coal plant has a separate license, and these amendments are requests for changes to appoint a new radiation safety officer for each of those plants, hence the separate requests," stated Prema Chandrathil, NRC Information Officer.

Now we are wondering why if it is getting out of the coal business, DTE is upgrading all their Source Material Licenses and adding Heather Lucier as the new Radiation Safety Officer.

For those of you who do research, the other licenses are: 21-02335-09; 21-02335-05; 21-02335-06; 21-02335-08; and 21-32707-01.

House Bill No. 6019 – Nuke Study

HB 6019 passed the Michigan House and has been sent on to the Senate Energy and Technology Committee. Twenty representatives voted not to waste the money. Let it die in committee.

FYI - In the News

= The Biden administration sues a DTE Energy subsidiary that produces coke for steelmaking, alleging the company is [increasing sulfur dioxide emissions](#) without obtaining permits or installing pollution controls.

= A coalition of 94 organizations, including Beyond Nuclear, and 328 individuals, wrote to Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer urging her to "cease and desist" from attempting to bail out the closed for good Palisades atomic reactor on the shore of Lake Michigan, to the tune of nearly a billion dollars of federal taxpayer money, in a scheme to restart operations there for at least another nine years. Whitmer has applied to [Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, herself a former Michigan governor](#).

= Michigan's second-largest city [activates a solar installation](#) at its water filtration plant that will produce 10% of the facility's power usage.

= Township planning officials reject plans for a [\\$100 million, 100 MW solar project](#) in eastern Michigan. (*County Press*)

= A nearly 1 MW solar installation at a Michigan water filtration plant will help Grand Rapids move closer to its goal of powering municipal buildings with [100% renewable energy](#). (*MLive*)

= Environmental groups oppose plans for an [\\$800 million natural gas plant](#) in southern Michigan ahead of a state regulatory decision on whether the project meets air quality regulations. (*CBS Detroit*)

= FirstEnergy's board allowed former CEO Chuck Jones to keep [tens of millions of dollars](#) in earnings as the utility engaged in a pay-to-play scheme with lawmakers, newly revealed documents show. (*Ohio Capital Journal*)

June Fermi Documents Received

= **ML22164A472**. Email regarding changes to Material Source License No. 21-02335-12. See article, page 3

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22164A472>

= **ML22164A314**. Email regarding changes to Material Source License No. 21-02335-06. See article, page 3.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22164A314>

= **ML22164A365**. Email regarding changes to Material Source License No. 21-02335-12. See article, page 3.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22164A365>

= **ML22164A433**. Email regarding changes to Material Source License No. 21-02335-05. See article, page 3.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22164A433>

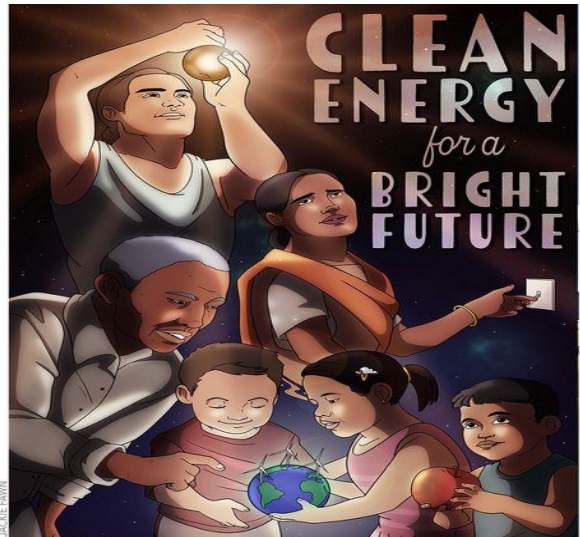
ML22167A115. Email re Material licenses

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22167A115>

= **ML22167A112**. DTE responds to NRC request for additional information for License No. 21-02335-06. See article, page 3.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22167A112>

= **Event No. 55964**. Automatic Reactor Scram due to Main Turbine Trip. See Lead Story on page 1.



CRAFT Zoom Public Meeting

This is an invitation to attend a zoom meeting with the CRAFT Steering Committee Team on Thursday July 21st from 5:30-6:30 p.m. We look forward to In-Person meetings, but not yet. Here is the link for the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6559569802?pwd=ajMvRE5TNmVJaW1iWIRJalV2dnhZdz09>

Zoom in and help brainstorm on convincing DTE to phase out Fermi 2.



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