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Tornado Hits Near Fermi

On June 15th, a tornado touched down in Frenchtown Township, the township where Fermi 2 is located. The tornado did not hit the Fermi site, and no one was injured, but plenty of trees and branches were ripped out. The township Fire Chief said that although this was the second tornado this year to hit in Monroe County, the last one to hit Frenchtown was in 2010.

This is a reminder that Fermi continually has trouble with their fans that are supposed to equalize the air pressure if a tornado strikes the reactor. Ironically, on June 21st, the NRC gave Fermi a violation for not fixing the Emergency Diesel Generators (EDG) which kick off if the building gets depressurized, such as if hit by a tornado.

DTE has been promising to fix that problem since 2016, but their response in the violation filing is, “current plant procedures would be used to manually restart the EDGs and restore torus cooling within 20 minutes.”

The NRC accepted that except for one inspector who filed a Non-Concurrence (listed in Documents Received), Jamie Benjamin. “It is my opinion that all Fermi 2 Emergency Diesel Generators were/are required to be declared Technical Specifications inoperable based upon the loss of off-site power,” stated Benjamin.

Event Number 56570

This is a separate fan with troubles. On June 12, the “Mechanical Draft Cooling Tower Fan D was declared inoperable due to a trip of the fan while running in high speed,” stated DTE’s filing.

This is the fifth time the fans have been declared inoperable since 2016. Heaven help us if Fermi should have a mishap when the fans are not working to cool the reactor down – or stabilize the inside air in case of a tornado. Just saying.!

Citizens’ Resistance at Fermi Two

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Is a new Monroe Overpass a Sham

The U.S. Department of Transportation gave a grant to the City of Monroe to build a new overpass for the CSX railroad on West Elm Avenue to improve delays due to train crossings.

This will not help the delays caused by the Switchyard on the Fermi evacuation route that holds residents up frequently.

We have reported before on residents held up for over an hour while the trains arranged their cars. Those residents have sought help from their politicians for years, and the money came for the City of Monroe is going to use it to lift a train crossing in town where no trains switch out their cars.

“It would be better if Congress got off their asses and passed some meaningful legislation to prevent overly long waits (trains are too long) and blockages and started to represent the public and not the rail interests,” said Hedi Kaufman, one of the residents that had repeatedly asked for the situation to be resolved in case Fermi had an accident. “That’s my opinion!”

The Monroe News reported that both “U.S. Senators Gary Peters and Debbie Stabenow participated in helping to secure the grant for the city.”



DTE and “Dark Money”

At its annual meeting in May, DTE shareholders voted down a stockholder’s proposal that would have made DTE’s lobbying practices public, including donations to 501(c)(4) organizations which do not have to report how they spend money.

The resolution was put up by the SEIU Master Trust – a DTE Shareholder – and supported by the Defend Black Voters Coalition. DTE leadership urged shareholders to vote down the measure. The proposal called out the dark money organizations DTE funds, including Michigan Energy First, and the Clean and Sustainable Energy Fund. Both of their names deny their function.

“If DTE can’t keep your lights on, they at least should allow some sunshine on all the dark money they spend to keep bad policies in place,” said Michigan House majority Floor Leader Abraham Aiyash. “Michiganders have made it crystal clear: Invest in grid, stop blocking solar energy efforts, and stop spending dark money in Lansing.”

This Editor has become Jaded.

For those who do not know, I (Jessie Pauline Collins) have been researching and writing this newsletter for over ten years and it seems like Fermi should either be shut down or I should give up my efforts. But we both trudge on.

What brought this to mind is reading the 24-page document “Request for Enforcement Discretion for Technical Specifications regarding Emergency Equipment Cooling Water.”

When I first began reading these types of documents, I did not see a collaboration between the nuclear industry and the federal agencies that monitor them. Years later, I cannot unsee it, nor can I think the feds are acting in our best interest.

This request is for the NRC to give Fermi more time to fix its rust problem, and DTE sent the request on June 6, 2023, and includes the statement, “The only alternative to this request for enforcement discretion is to shut down Fermi 2 by 1600 EDT on June 3, 2023.”

Another Tax Credit for Nukes?

Michigan State Representative Pauline Wendzel introduced legislation to provide a 15% tax credit to companies installing small modular reactor technology in Michigan.

“My legislation will ensure Michigan could be the first state to successfully develop and deploy an advanced small modular reactor,” said Wendzel of the tax credit going to a company’s “qualified research and development expenses that are related to the design, development, or improvement of advanced small reactors...”

“Representative Wendzel looks like a shameless cheerleader who doesn't even realize that she wants to give Holtec a tax break for design activity that will take place at Holtec's offices in Florida or New Jersey and won't create a single job in Michigan,” said Terry Lodge, Don’t Waste Michigan attorney.

Fermi’s ISFSI Decommissioning

DTE filed their plan to decommission Fermi 2’s Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) for when Fermi 2 shuts down in 2045. Currently, the ISFSI is a 141 foot by 141-foot concrete slab. An addition of 141 foot long by sixty-eight foot wide is projected before closure.

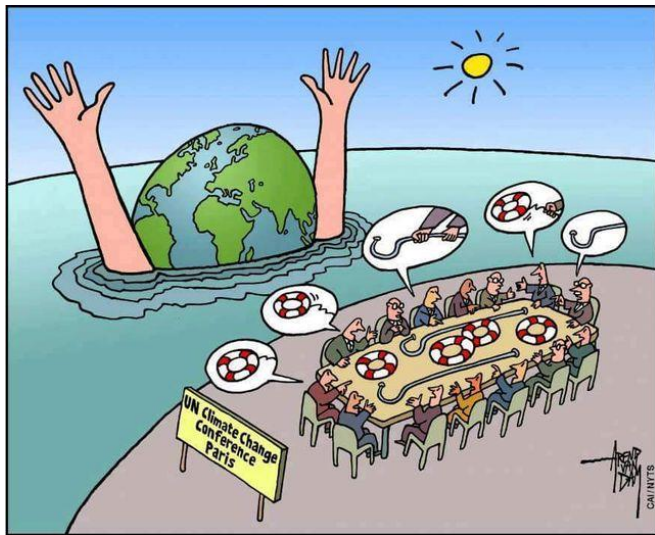
The slab holds the Dry Storage casks containing approximately sixty-eight too hot to burn used fuel rods. It also contains other contaminated waste. The filing projects “up to 96 spent fuel storage casks are required to store approximately 6, 528 assemblies.”

“Approximately \$328,000 per year is being deposited into the ISFSI ...monthly deposits will be made into a separate account for ISFSI decommissioning within the Nuclear Decommissioning Trust Fund (NDF) for Fermi 2.

As of December 31, 2019, the account held approximately \$4.8 million.”

The Fermi 2 NDF is where DTE deposits \$12 per year and uses discretion to where the rest of the \$3 million per year goes. I hope the \$4.8 million went into a separate fund.

Detroit Edison is the official owner of Fermi 2, and is a subsidiary of DTE Energy, however, the report tells us “the estimate includes DTE’s Energy labor and overhead costs.”



FYI – Climate Crisis News

= A southeastern Michigan landfill receives permits to produce renewable natural gas from waste, a step outlined to settle alleged air pollution violations at the facility. (*MLive*)

= Key funding, regulatory, and power purchase agreement approvals are all needed for a shuttered Michigan nuclear plant to reopen. (*Herald Palladium*)

= Construction continues on a \$550 million natural gas pipeline through southeastern Michigan. (*MLive*)

= A new analysis shows that U.S. utilities have made at least \$215 million in political contributions to dark money nonprofits in recent years that have helped increase power prices, hinder customer solar programs and elect sympathetic legislators. (*The Guardian*)

= A Michigan lawmaker proposes a 15% tax credit for companies deploying small nuclear reactor technology. (*Herald-Palladium*)

= Michigan business groups say proposed legislation calling for 100% carbon-free power by 2035 would “wreak havoc” on the state’s grid,

while bill supporters say it is a rough draft subject to negotiations. (*Crain’s Detroit Business, subscription*)

= Federal prosecutors recommend a 16-20 year prison sentence for former Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder based on his role in a \$61 million corruption scheme that caused “immeasurable damage to the institution of democracy in Ohio.” (*Columbus Dispatch*)

= A Michigan utility pushes back on legislation to offer large rebates for home solar and storage installations, saying it would create a “system of winners and losers” and raise rates for others. (*Crain’s Grand Rapids Business*)

June Fermi Documents Received

= **ML23146A062**. Email from NRC to DTE re: Fermi’s LAR re: acceptance for more info. NRC states they will finish their review in May 2024. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23146A062>

= **ML23158A133**. NRC’s Notice of Enforcement Discretion (NOED) to let Fermi unclog the cooling water intakes without giving them a violation. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23158A133>

= **ML23156A660**. Snubber Program for the Fourth Year Testing Interval. This is a report DTE forgot to file in January 2021.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23156A660>

= **ML23156A653**. “Non-destructive Examination for the Fourth 10-Year Inspection Interval. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23156A653>

= **ML23157A026**. Request for Enforcement Discretion for Emergency Cooling Water and Ultimate Heat Sink. See page 2, Editor is Jaded. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23157A026>

= Event No. 56570. High Pressure Coolant Injection Declared Inoperable. See article, page 2.

= **ML20090H578**. Fermi 2 ISFSI Funding Update, dated March 30, 2020, and signed by Peter Dietrich.

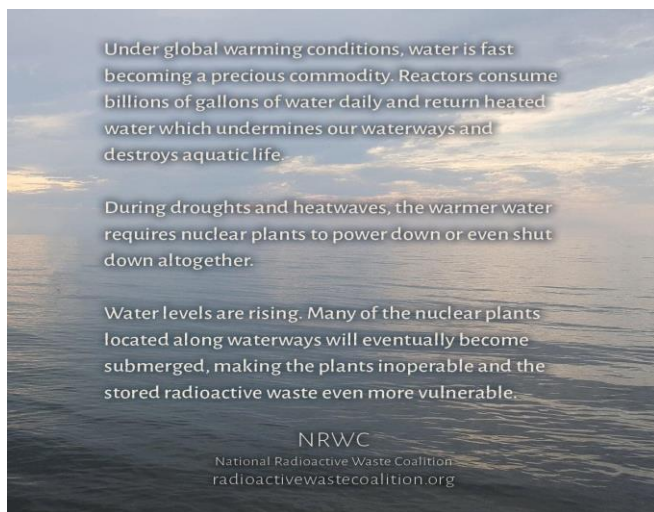
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML20090H578>

= **ML23089A081**. Exact same letter as above, with the date is changed to March 30, 2023, and is signed by Eric Olson. One paragraph is added. See page 2. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23089A081>

= **ML23163A172**. Design Basis Inspection, see Tornados, page 1. NEED URL!!!Two violations.

= **ML23153A122**. Non-concurrence with filing. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23153A122>

= **ML22325A136**. Updated UFSAR. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22325A136>



CRAFT Times

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DTE Slow-walking Energy Future

By Jim Sherman, CRAFT Co-Chair.

Much confusion surrounds the future of clean, renewable energy in Michigan. Slick messages touting DTE's adoption of renewable energy infest every form of media. Well paid lobbyists and "community leaders" simultaneously sow DTE's unfounded fears about renewable energy from the legislature to public forums. "What if the sun stops shining?" and "the wind isn't blowing!"

Behind the hype, what is DTE saying about their renewable energy ambitions to regulators? Buried deep in the dark obfuscations and doublespeak of DTE's 2022 IRP are some telling admissions. DTE states "The Company deemed it was prudent to phase in renewable installations in a measured approach starting earlier in the time period." In other words, they are intentionally slow walking the implementation of urgently needed clean energy.

DTE also limited the number of incremental megawatts of renewable energy, after accounting for the renewable resources included in the starting point, which could be added in any one year to 500 MW of wind and solar combined in 2023-2025 and 1,000 MW of wind and solar combined in 2026 and beyond."

"An annual MW limit also allows the Company to take advantage of technological advancements and cost savings that may arise in the future." This statement is a reference to SMRs (small module reactors) and fracked gas plus carbon capture. Both are still a fantasy. Yet a well-funded fantasy gets more traction with legislators than scientific truth, evident in the pro-nuclear doublespeak of SB 271, which attempts to declare nuclear as safe, clean, affordable.

So, when you hear "renewables don't work" just know it is a self-fulfilling prophecy, if DTE and their sycophants control the agenda.