



**March 2021 CRAFT Times vol. 8 no. 3**  
(Fermi 2 nuclear reactor & other environmental news)

## 25 Years Later - Two Reports Filed

A couple of Fermi's License Events that happened in August 1995 finally made it into the NRC public library. Both evolved from a 10-day series of events organized by nuclear abolitionists.

One notice which happened August 5<sup>th</sup>, was the arrest of three people who used a ladder to climb the fence and enter Fermi's grounds.

The other happened on August 9<sup>th</sup> and involved two members of Greenpeace scaling Fermi's north cooling tower and hung a No Nukes banner.

## Protecting Our Earth - from Fukushima to Fermi 2

March 11<sup>th</sup> makes 10 years since the Fukushima disaster began; it has not yet been stabilized. CRAFT will commemorate the disaster on the day, and days leading up to March 11.

We carry the ties to the terrible accident, not only by shared earth, but also by way of a shared reactor model with the same fatally flawed designs. Not only is Fermi 2 the same Mark 1 design, but the world's largest at that.

At this crossroads in time, we see 10 years since the Fukushima meltdown as 10 years of evidence against Mark 1 reactors and nukes in general. We would also like people to see 10 years of growth in renewable development and generation capacity.

In this event we will have speakers and artists; join us March 11 from 4 to 6 on zoom platform to be part of the action. We will also be on Facebook live streaming the event for those who may only be able to tune in a little portion at a time. Stay tuned for our promotion of the event coming soon.

## Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two (CRAFT) telephone 313-286-3827

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

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

<https://shutdownfermi.net>



## NRC Denies CRAFT Appeal

One year ago, CRAFT filed for a public hearing on DTE's plan to use Snap-In neutron absorbers in Fermi's Spent Fuel Pool instead of removing and replacing the existing degraded neutron absorbers as they previously committed to do.

DTE lawyers and NRC Staff lawyers both filed to object saying CRAFT had no right to a public hearing. We appealed and gained a phone hearing to present Oral Arguments before an Atomic Energy and Licensing Board (ASLB).

After a few more filings and clarifications, the ASLB ruled we had no right to a public hearing. The only option left to us was to appeal to the full NRC – which we did.

As expected, the Commission denied our appeal, saying things like we were not allowed to introduce any new evidence, we were only allowed to prove the NRC wrong. Sad.

This NRC filing shows how much the NRC protects the nuclear industry. They ruled that we did not get a formal exemption to criticize the NRC. "CRAFT did not seek a waiver to allow it to challenge this regulation." Who knew we could get one?

Read the full report at <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21049A207>



## DTE's New Gas Scheme - Methane

“Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) is natural gas derived by capturing methane emitted from organic waste material in landfills, wastewater treatment plants and dairy farms. Methane gas is trapped and impurities are removed, creating a renewable source of pipeline quality gas,” states the advertisement for DTE’s new program Natural Gas Balance.

Ratepayers can choose to pay an extra \$4, \$8, \$12, or \$16 per month on their bills. Sounds to me like DTE’s newest scheme to fleece us. For info, [dteenergy.com/naturalgasbalance](http://dteenergy.com/naturalgasbalance).

## Sen. Peters likes Nukes?

We contacted Sen. Gary Peters to ask him to vote against the proposed American Nuclear Infrastructure Act and the nuclear waste storage plans. His responses seemed to have a fair amount of cut and paste:

“Nuclear power continues to be an important part of Michigan’s energy mix, providing roughly 30 percent of our state’s electricity.” And:

“Hearing directly from Michiganders like you helps inform me of the issues that matter to our state. I am so grateful for your input.”

The letters do differ in content, as the American Infrastructure Act tells us, “I have cosponsored the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act to bolster research into advanced nuclear technology.” That act passed into law.

The nuclear waste storage letter tells us, “I had serious concerns about the Canadian government’s

proposal to build a permanent nuclear waste repository less than a mile from Lake Huron.”

Both letters are dated January 28, 2021.

## 80-Years on Lake Michigan?

Last month, the NRC held a public comment meeting regarding NextEra Nuclear’s (formerly Florida Power and Light) proposal to operate the two-reactor Point Beach nuclear power reactors in Two Rivers, Wisconsin for 80 more years.

The NRC and industry want the reactor licenses extended for 80 years, despite Unit 2 having the worst embrittled reactor pressure vessel in the country.

They are asking for this insanity on Lake Michigan, 21% of the world’s fresh surface water, and 84% of North America’s – the drinking water supply for 40 million people in 8 states, Canada, and Indigenous Nations.

## Coalition Intervenes at Palisades

Terry Lodge, legal counsel for an environmental coalition (Beyond Nuclear, Don’t Waste Michigan, Michigan Safe Energy Future, and Nuclear Energy Information Service) filed a Leave to Intervene and Request for Public Hearing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission opposing the transfer of Palisades license from Entergy Nuclear to Holtec International.

The filing charges the license transfer would allow Holtec to drain the decommissioning fund for non-decommissioning expenses, and Holtec’s underestimation of decommissioning costs.

The coalition also requests a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement of the danger to Lake Michigan water. The sale would also include the Big Rock Point nuclear reactor which the NRC declared decommissioned although 8 casks of highly radioactive waste are still stored there.

## Fermi’s License Amendment #218

Last month, the NRC granted DTE a license amendment to “Change Surveillance Intervals to Accommodate a 24-Month Fuel Cycle.”

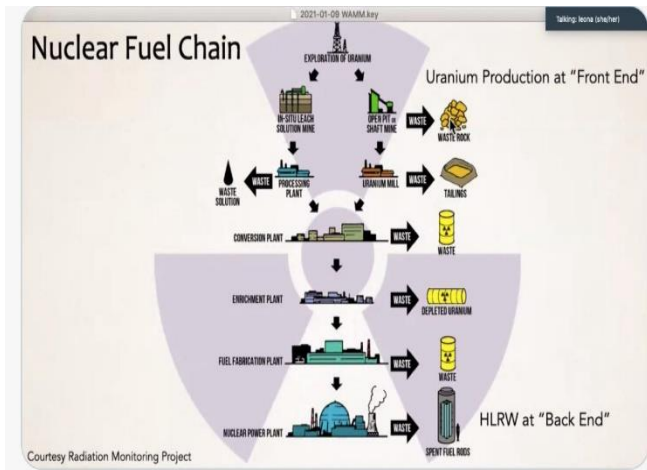
“The amendment revises the technical specifications to increase certain surveillance requirement intervals from 18 months to 24 months to accommodate a 24-month fuel cycle,” stated the document making legal Fermi’s conversion to the

new hotter fuel that will allow the reactor to go an extra 8 months without having to shut down for refueling.

However, the document states that “the affected calibration surveillance procedures will be revised as part of implantation, prior to the first 24-month cycle of operation.” That one statement brings up two questions:

The NRC licensed a procedure that has not been revised yet? And didn’t Fermi start its first 24-month cycle this summer when it refueled and loaded the new hotter fuel?

“Based on its review, the NRC staff accepts that the reduction in safety is very small...” (still chipping away at our security?) and “The State official had no comments...” (the state never has, but unfortunately, we had expected better from Whitmer’s administration)



## Texas Grid Collapses in Storm

When the massive winter storm hit Texas last month, the governor blamed the president and sustainable energy. Neither was to blame.

The South Texas nuclear reactor was one contributor to the grid collapse when it failed to winterize its steam turbines, to save money, and frozen feedwater pumps caused a reactor SCRAM (the sudden shutdown of a nuclear reactor).

Other weather extremes that can cause SCRAMS include ice build-up on offsite electric utility lines which provide 100 % of the power to a reactor’s safety systems.

The other extreme is prolonged heat that may make the cooling water temperature rise, causing shutdown – or a drought eliminating cooling water.

## Taxpayers are funding Nuclear!

While most taxpayers are against nuclear energy, their elected officials are not. Last year, Congress approved \$1.5 billion just for research on producing new smaller reactors.

“Federal funding towards proven solutions like nuclear energy should continue,” said a nuclear industry spokesperson, delighted about the money. “This will require the deployment of new nuclear designs and policies that preserve existing carbon-free nuclear plants.”

## Feb. Fermi Documents Received

= **ML20087D684**. An August 10, 1995 Preliminary Notification of demonstrators arrested at Fermi. [ML20087D684](https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML20087D684)

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML20087D684>

= **ML20087D294**. An August 7, 1995 Preliminary Notification of demonstrators arrested at Fermi. [ML20087D294](https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML20087D294)

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML20087D294>

= **ML21034A197**. NRC meeting to extend licenses to 40 years instead of 20. See article, page 2.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21034A197>

= **ML21041A276**. Fermi 2 Integrated Inspection Report. “No findings or violations of more than minor significance were identified during this inspection,” stated the document that went on to discuss undone repairs etc.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21041A276>

**ML21049A207**. NRC Commissioners Deny CRAFT’s Appeal for Public Hearing.

[ML21049A207](https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21049A207)

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21049A207>

**ML21005A421**. NRC approves Fermi’s exemption from Work Hour rules because of COVID-19 for an additional 60 days.

**ML21028A012**. NRC issues multiple exemptions to extend reactor work rules.

**ML20358A155**. “Change Surveillance Intervals to Accommodate 24-Month Fuel Cycle.” See page 2.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML20358A155>



## FYI – No Room for These Stories

- + Honeywell to Reopen US's Sole Uranium Conversion Facility in Metropolis, Illinois.
- + The NRC budget for 2021 is \$879,399.
- + The ice on Lake Erie measured 3.9 % while last year this time it measured 11.3%.
- + DTE gives Ann Arbor and Roseville electric school buses.
- + AG Nessel Intervenes in DTE Gas Rate Case to stop DTE from overcharging us.
- + Ohio's House Bill 6 remains law despite the state bribery scandal, several high-level resignations, and racketeering charges.



Here is a shout-out to Lodi Siefer of the Siefer Charitable Trust for her generous donation.

And a shout-out to someone who made a donation through the GoFundMe, which didn't tell us the donors name.

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 contact Cindy Folkers to do it online – [cindy@beyondnuclear.org](mailto:cindy@beyondnuclear.org)

Native American Club presents

# FERMI ISSUES, DANGERS & ALTERNATIVE ENERGY OPTIONS

Featuring guest speaker  
**JESSE DEER IN WATER**

JESSE DEER IN WATER, TSALAGI/KEETOOWAH, CITIZEN OF THE CHEROKEE NATION OF OKLAHOMA AND A LEADER IN CRAFT, CITIZEN RESISTANCE AT FERMI TWO

Thursday, April 15, 2021  
3-3:45 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://schoolcraftcollege.zoom.us/j/85704744437>  
Meeting ID: 857 0474 4437



For more information, contact the Student Activities Office at 734-462-4422.

Co-sponsored by: Student Activities Center, Dept. of Sociology, Service Learning/Civic Engagement, and the Native American Club



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## *CRAFT Times*

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