



March 2024 *CRAFT Times* vol. 11 no. 3

Fermi Not down for Refueling

Although Fermi was at reduced power for two weeks in January and one week in February, the reactor did not shut down for a refueling outage as it was reported to do. We continue to monitor it.

Fermi 2's NPDES Report Update

CRAFT and others filed and received a public hearing on the issuance of the Fermi 2 reactor's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit. The hearing was on November 28th, and we have not heard from them since.

Our Community Organizer Jesse DeerInWater contacted the Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Environment (MiEGLE) and the reply was that they have not yet dealt with the legal issues we filed, much less drafted Fermi a new permit. We remember they stalled for four years before they issued the permit that is now expired.

DTE Is Warming Up Lake Erie

A recent article in the Monroe News lauds the benefits of DTE's Coal Fired Plant's thermal pollution in Lake Erie. The article dealt with DTE's annual Bald Eagle tour on the property.

"During winters when Lake Erie freezes over, the warmer discharge from the coal-fired plant keeps the water near the lakeshore open," stated the article. "Even in milder winters like this year, the warmer water draws fish in from the colder water out in the lake."

So, we are to believe that thermal pollution is a good thing? And DTE's nuclear reactor is within sight of the coal plant, discharging heated water for the eagles and inviting in invasive fish, and jumpstarting algal blooms?

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>

SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNITY APPRECIATION MANOOMIN SOUP (wild rice) COOK-OFF

March 9th

Doors open @ 1pm Judging @ 3pm

Speakers, food, raffle, community
COME WITH A GOOD HEART AND MIND

Cash prize for 1st-3rd place cook-off winners

Gifts for all cook-off entries



NAIA
North American Indian Association
22720 Plymouth Rd, Detroit



Hosted by CRAFT
Contact: Jesse Deer In Water
313.471.1270 shutdownfermi@gmail.com

Everyone is Invited to attend.

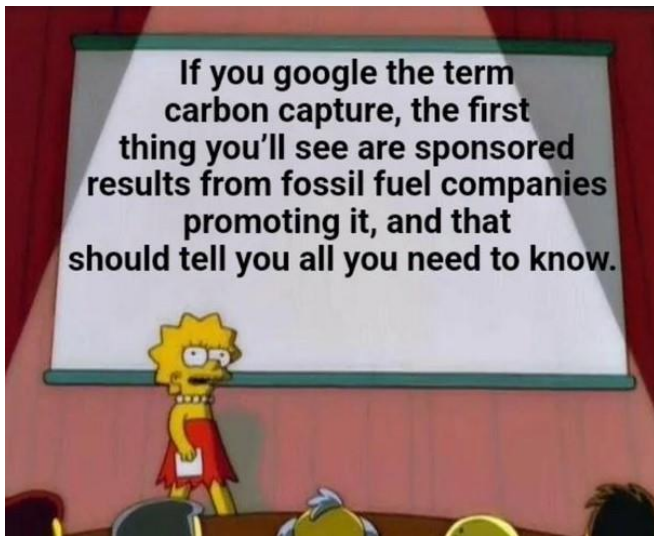
Good Holtec – Bad Holtec

Holtec International is owned by Krishna Singh and is all over the chart – and world – with the nuclear scene.

They develop nuclear technology and build “dry casks” for spent reactor fuel in Camden, New Jersey. They have NRC permission to decommission reactors in New Jersey and two other states – Michigan included. They are setting up a nuclear waste dump in New Mexico – against New Mexico's wishes.

They have also been fined for corruption. Holtec paid a \$2 million fee to TVA back in 2010. They paid \$5 million to New Jersey for lying on 2014 taxes and are still negotiating a fine for their 2018 tax scandal.

And so far, they only sound “Bad Holtec,” right? Here is the “Good Holtec” – we could not actually find any good news, but the Biden Administration did and has offered Holten a \$1.5 billion loan to restart the zombie reactor Palisades here in Michigan. And we know we can trust the Biden Administration. Right?



FYI – Climate Crisis News

= Critics say utility plans to [burn hydrogen for electricity](#) at natural gas plants as a way to cut emissions would be a costly distraction from pursuing other technologies. (*Canary Media*)

= DTE Energy [proposes a nearly \\$125 million plan](#) to boost electric vehicle charging in low and moderate-income communities by providing rebates to residents and businesses. (*Planet Detroit*)

= A nonprofit funded by Michigan's largest utilities [contributed at least \\$600,000](#) to three fundraising accounts tied to Michigan Democrats the year before sweeping clean energy laws narrowly passed the legislature. (*Detroit News*)

= Michigan regulators [consider adding surcharges](#) to customer bills to fund an incentive program for utilities to improve grid reliability. (*CBS Detroit*)

= DTE Energy's CEO Jerry Norcia announced plans for a [new natural gas plant in Monroe County](#) as part of transitioning away from coal. He said the plant would incorporate carbon capture technology, align with Michigan's clean energy targets, and enhance the grid to support growing electric vehicle use. (Crains)

= DTE Energy requests a [15-year extension](#) from Michigan regulators to close its coal ash landfill near Lake Erie, significantly beyond the standard six-month period. The utility said the extension is necessary for a safe completion of the closure, which involves draining and capping the site

containing significant amounts of water and ash. (MLive)

= Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's budget proposal seeks [another \\$150 million](#) to help reopen the shuttered Palisades nuclear power plant, but critics say the money would be better spent on energy efficiency, renewable energy, or public transit. (*Bridge Michigan*)

= DTE Energy [schedules demolition dates](#) for its Trenton, Michigan, coal power plant, with the first phase set for March 1. (*ClickOnDetroit*)

= An Ann Arbor, Michigan, coalition [releases a detailed proposal](#) for how the city could transition to a municipally run electric utility, proposing a nine-member board with five seats publicly elected. (*ClickOnDetroit*)

= [Federal money could boost efforts](#) by Michigan and other states to restart or keep aging nuclear power plants operating as a source of carbon-free electricity. (*Stateline*)

= Ohio's attorney general [files a total of 44 charges](#) against a former top energy regulator and two former FirstEnergy executives for their alleged roles in a bribery and money-laundering scandal meant to benefit the utility. (*Ohio Capital Journal*)

= Ann Arbor, Michigan, officials prepare to ask voters whether to approve a [Sustainable Energy Utility](#) that would deploy microgrids connecting solar, geothermal and battery storage across the city. (*Michigan Public*)

= Just months after receiving a \$368 million rate increase, DTE Energy appears poised to [request another increase](#) this spring for grid infrastructure investments. (*Planet Detroit*)

= Youth climate advocates [rally in downtown Detroit](#) to demand solutions to the climate crisis. (*Planet Detroit*)

= Michigan Democrats introduce legislation to [ban the state's two largest utilities from making political contributions](#), though the plan could face opposition from both sides of the aisle. (*Detroit News*)

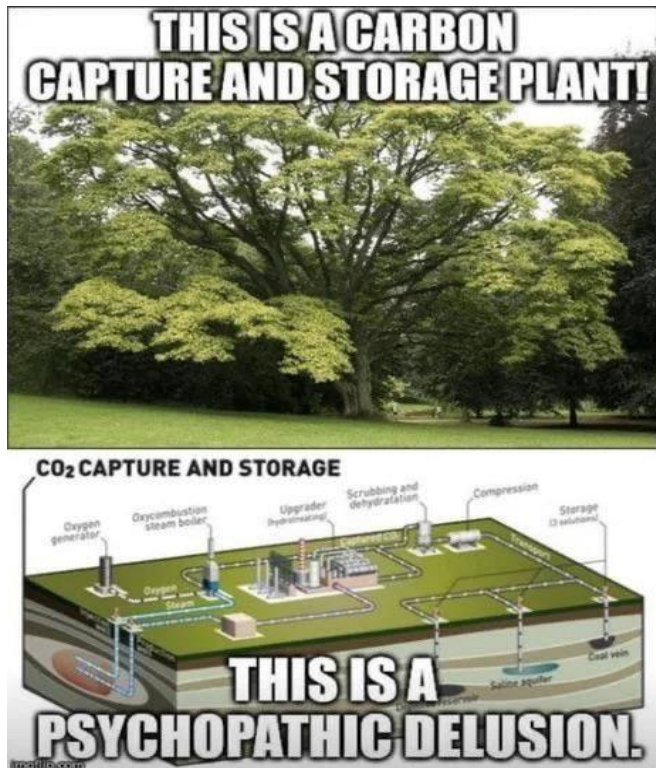
= In seeking to ban campaign contributions from utilities, a Michigan lawmaker says it's much cheaper for companies to [buy political](#)

influence than invest in grid reliability. (*Michigan Advance*)

= Michigan regulators will hold a public hearing next week in Detroit to gather input on carrying out sweeping new clean energy laws. (*MLive*)

= Detroit-based DTE Energy is seeking proposals to develop 1,075 MW of renewable energy projects to support its long-term clean energy plan. (*North American Windpower*)

= Michigan regulators will hold a public hearing next week in Detroit to gather input on carrying out sweeping new clean energy laws. (*MLive*)



Fermi's New Violations

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission gave Fermi 2 three non-cited violations in February. The first was heat exchangers above the limit with corrosion deposits “were obstructing some of the channels.” And the reason was found to be “from approximately 2015 through June 2023, a testing program that ensures all testing required to demonstrate that structures, systems, and components will perform satisfactorily was not established and test results were not evaluated.”

The second dealt with the mess on the fan gear pedestal degradation. Instead of a one-inch group

base, workers had put in metal shims which corroded and stopped up filters.

The third dealt with the radioactive leakage in the drywell that caused the shutdown on August 19, 2023. “The licensee identified this location as being susceptible to fatigue failure in 2000 but did not monitor or evaluate the issue further.”

And the NRC inspectors left one item open that dealt with a guard leaving his post for 30 minutes with the doors unlocked. The guard misunderstood the directions. Read the full report under Documents Received.

DTE Files for PURKA Costs

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) has set a hearing on DTE’s request for “approval in establishing the method and avoided cost calculations for DTE Electric Company to fully comply with the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978.”

A Video/Teleconferencing pre-hearing will be held on March 19th at 9 a.m. One can call DTE, at 1-800-477-4747 or write to them at One Energy Plaza, Detroit MI 48226 to get a free copy of their application. Or check online at Michigan.gov/mpscedockets.

One of the four requests states, “grant DTE Electric further relief.” How about granting ratepayers relief from DTE’s continual rate raises?

NRC Licenses Parking Lot Dump

“The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a license to Holtec International to construct and operate a consolidated interim storage facility for spent nuclear fuel in Lea County, New Mexico,” stated the NRC press release.

The NRC issued this license to put 500 cement canisters there for 40 years despite the NM government passing laws saying NO! Holtec said they plan to eventually store up to 10,000 canisters which would be shipped there from all over the country, including Fermi 2’s casks.

NRC’s Fermi 2 Open House

The NRC sent a notification that they will conduct an open house to discuss Fermi’s 2022 performance on June 21st from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

DTE's Natural Gas Balance

"They are taking advantage of customers that actually care about the environment and creating this illusion that they're doing something really good, when in fact, it's just DTE raking in a profit for business as usual," said Tim Minotas with the Michigan Sierra Club.

Michigan environmental groups criticize DTE Energy's voluntary carbon offset program for natural gas customers as a marketing ploy and a way for the company to profit with business as usual. (*Michigan Public*)

Feb. Fermi Documents Received

= **ML24031A549**. F2 Integrated Inspection Report. See Violations article, page 3.

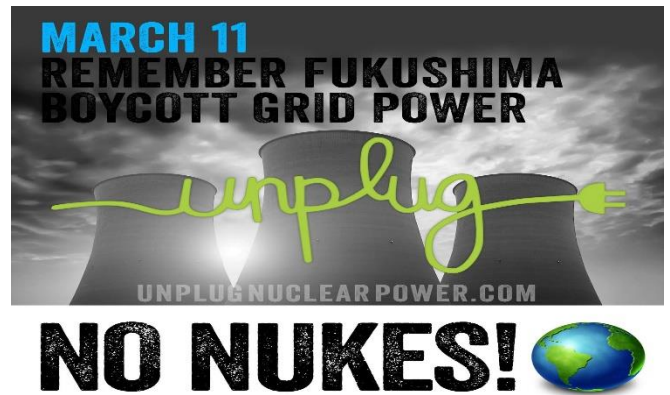
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML24031A549>

= **ML24046A213**. Property Insurance Coverage.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML24046A213>

Property Insurance Coverage

In the document above DTE files their property and decontamination damage insurance. They list Primary as \$2.75 billion and the Excess as \$300 million. Do you think that is enough?



Ban DTE's Contributions?

"I've seen the polluting power of utility money in politics for too long," said Senator Jeff Irwin of Ann Arbor, one of three lawmakers introducing bills to stop utility companies from allegedly buying political decisions.

An example of the pollution he speaks of involved organizations tied to DTE and Consumers that spent \$9.4 million in 2022 politics, including donations of \$950,000 to a nonprofit connected to Gov. Gretchen Witmer.

The other two lawmakers are Rep. Emily Dievendorf of Lansing and Rep. Dylan Wegela of Garden City. Wegela is the bill's main sponsor.

Read the entire article [here](#). Michigan Democrats introduce legislation to [ban the state's two largest utilities from making political contributions](#), though the plan could face opposition from both sides of the aisle. (*Detroit News*)



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