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DTE Rate Increase Pre-Hearing

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) will hold a pre-hearing on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 10 a.m. to consider DTE's application requesting another rate increase.

The MPSC notice for Case No.U-21297 states if the rate increase is approved, "a typical residential customer's average electric bill may be increased up to \$12.46 per month."

DTE asks the rate increase to go into effect December 10, 2023 and besides the residential rate increase, DTE also requests (2) "provide DTE a reasonable rate of return"; (3) approve an additional annual increase of \$622 million; (4) approve DTE's capital structure and return on equity; (5) approve new rates.

Here is the MPSC announcement of the hearing, a video/teleconference, and anyone may participate in it. Contact the MSPC Secretary at (517)284-8096 or by email – inside this notice.[U-21297 Notice of Hearing - March 7 2023 at 10AM.pdf](#)

There is more to the request, but then we received another notification.

The MPSC will hold another pre-hearing for another DTE rate request Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 9:00 AM. Here is the notice for it.

- [U-21245 Notice of Hearing - March 21, 2023, at 9AM.pdf](#)

This request asks the Commission to "authorize full recovery from its customers of the costs of capacity and energy association tithe the agreement pursuant to DTE Electric's Power Supply Cost Recovery process for the approximately 4-year term of the agreement as proposed by DTE."

There is more to this request, go to the link to read the details. It is case number U-21245

Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two

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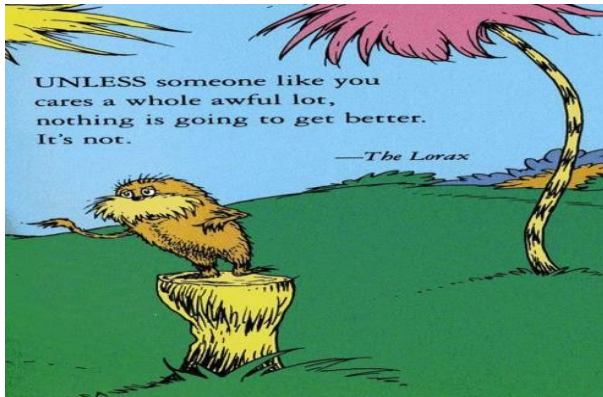


NRC Gives Fermi Five New Violations

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission completed an Integrated Inspection at Fermi 2 and issued their report with five violations.

1. Failure to Monitor Energy Line Break Flood Barriers. The "inspectors identified degraded and missing spray shields designed to protect safety-related equipment..." This became a violation because the NRC warned DTE about this in July 2019 and DTE committed to replacing the shields in a "Condition Assessment Resolution Document (CARD)" but they never did.
2. Failure to follow Housekeeping Procedure on Heat Sink Roof. Inspectors found an abundance of trash on the roof which wind gusts could blow into reservoirs and plug up service water.
3. Vendor Oversight issues During RF20 Torus Recoat Project. See "Torus Coating" next page.
4. Industry Standards Not Incorporated into Torus Recoat Procedures. See Torus Coating.
5. Failure to Perform Evaluations for Liquid Leakage. This violation involves "a boric acid leakage in the standby liquid control system." Officials had written CARDS for this in October 2022, October 2019, and August 2018.

The full report is listed in Documents Received.



Torus Coating Violations

The torus is a donut shaped pressure suppression chamber beneath the reactor relied on in an emergency to relieve reactor pressure and provide emergency circulation. When the debris clogs the filter screens there will be no flow of emergency water. Two of the recent violations involved the re-coating of Fermi's torus which has a history of problems with the painted coating flaking off and clogging up the filters of the cooling water.

Back in 2020, Toledo attorney Terry Lodge filed on behalf of environmental groups for the NRC to prove that Fermi 2 would be safe to reopen if DTE had not completed repainting Fermi's torus.

"The Fermi 2 reactor's torus has extensive debris from faulty coating going back decades," stated Michael Keegan of Don't Waste Michigan (DWM), one group concerned that loose, floating paint chips, worn off from the torus' original coating, could clog the filters on the cooling water needed in case of an accident. "DTE is being aided and abetted by the NRC granting of exemptions to critical repairs."

Now, the NRC gave two new violations, one for "unexpected torus coating degradation..." The other violation was for not following procedures such as letting the base coat dry for ten minutes instead of the hours that Fermi workers left between "stripe coating" and spraying.

DTE to quit Dumping Coal Ash

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) denied DTE's application to continue dumping coal ash, a toxic byproduct of coal generation, into unlined ponds at their Monroe Coal Plant and the Belle River plant in China Township.

The two DTE coal ash basins are among six nationwide which the EPA must close due to

groundwater pollutants concerns. Coal Ash contains many different heavy metals and poisons.

The EPA denied DTE's request for continuing to use the Monroe 410-acre pond that sits 200 feet from Lake Erie, saying they aren't sure the pond hasn't leaked into the groundwater before.

DTE will appeal the EPA's decision.

Got to Love the Mayflies!

Nuclear Regulatory inspectors reviewed DTE's evaluation of the June 2022 scram (unplanned reactor shutdown) caused by a swarm of mayflies, which was a repeat of a June 2020 scram caused by the Mayflies.

DTE's evaluation indicated problems with Fermi security and operations regarding working together to establish an area lighting strategy.

DTE's evaluation included, "One of the causes was not utilizing the "DTE Mayfly Infestation Plan." After serious questioning, "the inspectors learned DTE never had an infestation plan until after the 2022 event occurred."

The inspections also learned that there was no bad blood between security and operations - there were never discussions between them!

When we attended the 2021 NRC Public Meeting on Fermi's yearly performance, I asked about plans to prevent scrams caused by Mayflies, and the Resident NRC inspector replied that DTE had an excellent Mayfly Infestation Plan. (*Lies from both or just ignorance?*)

Unplug Nuclear Power – March 11!

Joe DeMare and our Ohio allies announce they are asking people to shut off electricity coming off the grid for 24 hours to protest the use of nuclear energy in protest of the 12th anniversary of the Fukushima disaster. CRAFT will be having the Wild Rice Cook-off that day, but we list this for those who are able to participate.

For more information, visit www.unplugnuclearpower.com

CRAFT's Shut Fermi Video!

The CRAFT Team has produced a video explaining why the Fermi 2 nuclear reactor should be eliminated. Watch it [here on the CRAFTS website home page](#).



FYI – In the Climate News!

- = DTE Energy’s CEO says the Detroit-based utility is committed to helping nearby Ann Arbor achieve its [100% renewable energy target](#) by 2030. (*MLive*)
- = Detroit-based DTE Energy had the [third highest number of electricity disconnections](#) among residential customers in 2021 and 2022, according to a watchdog report on utilities in 35 states. (*Michigan Radio*)
- = Federal prosecutors use hundreds of exhibits to [paint a detailed picture](#) of the alleged corruption scheme that helped bail out uneconomic nuclear plants and weaken the state’s clean energy standards. (*Energy News Network/Eye on Ohio*)
- = Ford officials say Inflation Reduction Act incentives were a [deciding factor](#) in the company’s selection of a Michigan site for a [planned \\$3.5 billion battery factory](#) that will employ at least 2,500 people. (*Detroit News, Associated Press*)
- = Michigan’s attorney general asks state utility regulators to demand more [transparency on political spending](#) by gas and electric companies. (*Detroit News*)
- = University of Michigan researchers are involved with [advanced nuclear energy studies](#) that could help identify possible sites for small reactors. (*Michigan Radio*)
- = A Native American tribe based in northwestern Michigan receives [nearly \\$100,000 in federal](#)

- [funding](#) to study the feasibility of creating a tribal utility. (*MiBiz*)
- = An Ohio company that [recycles various types of batteries](#) is scaling up operations to meet rising U.S. demand for battery materials. (*Canary Media*)
- = More than 585,000 people in Michigan and 118,000 in Illinois were [without power late Wednesday](#) as snow and ice storms socked the region. (*CBS News*)
- = Detroit utility DTE Energy files its eighth rate increase request since 2010, seeking an [additional \\$622 million](#) a year to pay for various grid infrastructure measures. (*Bridge Detroit*)

Legislation to Promote Nukes

Three U.S. senators, Joe Manchin (D-WV), John Barrasso (R-WY), Jim Risch (R-ID), introduced legislation directing the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to ramp up U.S. production of nuclear fuel.

The Nuclear Fuel Security Act would not only increase uranium mining, but it would also accelerate efforts to produce high-assay, low-enriched uranium (HALEU) capabilities. The senators say this is necessary so the U.S. can quit buying Russian fuel.

Barrasso says a planned sodium-cooled TerraPower Natrium demonstration reactor in his state would benefit from this legislation. The DOE is spending \$2 billion to help the reactor happen. (*Fermi 1 was a sodium cooled reactor*)

Manchin and Bill Gates, chairperson of TerraPower toured a coal-fired plant in WV as the potential site of another small reactor.

If the HALEU need is not met, the secretary of energy will make it available from their inventories.

Wild Rice Cook-off on March 11!

CRAFT will sponsor a Wild Rice Soup cook-off at the North American Indian Association (NAIA) Center, 22720 Plymouth Road, Detroit MI 48239 on Saturday, March 11, beginning at 2 p.m.

Prizes and raffles are promised.

Note to Readers

If the newsletter looks a bit brief this month, it is because we have been without electricity for five days now. But it is going out! Bah to DTE!



Late Breaking News

We have been informed that the hazardous waste from the Palestine, Ohio train wreck will be sent to Michigan. We were told it would be sent to the Romulus site near the Detroit Metro airport, but we have not verified that.

There are several sites in Michigan that take hazardous waste. USEcology has sites in Detroit and Van Buren Township. There was a train wreck in Van Buren Township a week or so after the one in Ohio. Not as much drama/trauma to that one – except for the people directly affected. However, the lesson is that train wrecks happen and the government wants to haul nuclear waste by train!

It was reported that the EPA was shipping the waste to Michigan until Rep. Debbie Dingell and Energy Secretary Jennifer Grandholm put a stop to that. Now the company is going to hire private waste haulers.

Feb. Fermi Documents Received

= **ML23030A340**. Changes to Fermi 2's Technical Requirements Manual.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23030A340>

= **ML23040A197 – 223**. There were 46 separate Fermi 2 employees tested positive for drugs, but the library would not let me see the details.

= **Event Number 56080**. A supervisor refused a specimen for a drug test.

= **ML23039A155**. Integrated Inspection Report.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23039A155>

= **ML23040A243**. Security Baseline Inspection.

See Article, page 2.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23040A243>



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