



May 2021 CRAFT Times vol. 8 no. 5
 (Fermi 2 nuclear reactor & other environmental news)

The Monroe Tooth Fairy Study

Last issue we wrote about the steady rise in health disorders since Fermi 2 began operation in Monroe County. The Joseph Mangano Report also mentioned an on-going study that needs to be publicized.

The Tooth Fairy Project is being done by the Radiation and Public Health and headed by Mangano. The study will collect up to 50 baby teeth from children living near Fermi to be tested for levels of Steontium-90, a chemical only created in atomic bomb explosions and nuclear reactors.

To participate by sending in baby teeth – or just additional information, contact www.radiation.org or call 484-948-7965.

Another Work Hours Extension

DTE had an exemption for the law that expired in January that said they could only make the workers put in so many hours per week.

Then, they got another exemption that was good until March, and now they have applied for yet another one. “DTE is proactively taking steps to maintain staffing levels in a manner that supports worker and neighboring community safety to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus.”

The new work schedule will be: “Not more than 16 work-hours in any 24-hour period; not more than 86 work-hours in any 7-day period, excluding shift turnover; a minimum 10-hour break is provided between successive work periods; 12-hour shifts are limited to not more than 14 consecutive days...”

Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two

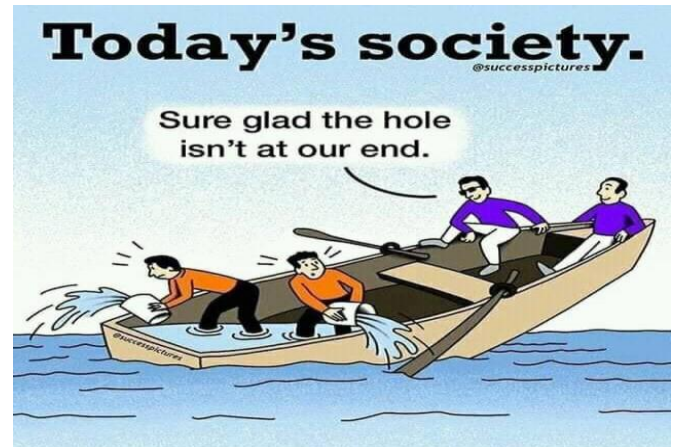
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House Bill 4236 Is in Committee

Both DTE and Consumers have given plenty of money to “dark-money” front groups (DTE’s Alliance for Michigan Power and Consumers’ Citizens Energizing Michigan’s Economy) to try and stop the 1% cap on solar from being eliminated.

Those entities are claiming HB 4236 discriminates against poor people who cannot afford solar panels, but most community members and more legislators are looking to support the bill.

“I don’t want to hear a sob story from DTE about how putting solar panels on the house is going to hurt poor people,” said State Rep. Yousef Rabhi, one of HB 4236’s co-signers. “If we remove the cap, we are putting the public’s interest first, and we are putting DTE’s interest first if we keep the cap in place.”

Michigan enacted the cap in 2016 to solar at 1% of a utility’s average peak load. Meaning when rooftop solar reaches that cap, no more rooftop panels will be allowed.

Consumers has voluntarily raised their cap to 2% and the MPSC chair is in support of HB 4236, which is now in the Committee on Energy.

Michiganders should write/call/email their own state Representative and the majority and minority chairs of the House Energy Committee to put it on the agenda for a Yes vote to move it to the House

floor. Otherwise, it will die in committee, the usual GOP strategy that killed the two previous attempts.



“Here’s your problem—it looks like you’re paying attention to what’s going on.”

DTE & Michigan’s Wind Farms

It would be nice to think that DTE is finally listening to their ratepayers, but for whatever reason, DTE now runs the two largest wind farms in Michigan.

Located in mid-Michigan’s Isabella County, Isabella 1 and 2 have a total of 136 turbines with a capacity of 383 MW. The third park, Fairbanks Wind, is in the Upper Peninsula’s Delta County and has 21 turbines with a capacity of 72 MW.

DTE states these new projects are part of their MIGreenPower program which customers pay extra for to have their power produced sustainably. I just wish someone would explain to me how DTE can separate out electricity from the grid that all their electricity is fed into.

DTE Grant is Possible Conflict

Ethic experts say that DTE’s \$12,000 donation to a Highland Park church creates the appearance of a conflict of interest for the pastor, QuanTez Pressley of the Third New Hope Baptist Church, named to the Utility Consumer Participation Board.

That board funds nonprofits that do regulatory battle with investor-owned utilities over issues including residential rate increases and renewable energy. The law states that the five-member board “shall be an advocate for the interests of residential utility consumers.”

The pastor’s secretary said DTE called her boss to let him know was appointed to the board because of the donation. She later cancelled a scheduled interview and would not return calls.

Hard Copy Newsletter Distribution

Our newsletter is now available at the Belleville, Redford, and the Monroe Ellis Libraries. If anyone wishes to inquire at their neighborhood library (or store, etc.) about carrying the newsletter for distribution, let us know and we will be glad to mail them to you – or wherever.

Chernobyl, 35 Years Later

We recommend that folks who did not see the HBO mini-series on the Chernobyl accident that happened 35 years ago this month, check it out on your cable – or the DVDs at your local library.

The Chernobyl disaster is still on-going.

In March, we commemorated the 10th anniversary of the Fukushima disaster which is still on-going. The Japanese government is now planning to dump all the radioactive wastewater into the Pacific Ocean.

In October, we can commemorate the partial meltdown of Fermi 1.

The point of this blurb is to stress the importance of shutting the Fermi 2 reactor down – and we cannot forget that DTE has a license to build a Fermi 3 anytime they want to.

Millions of people who live within a 50-mile radius of Fermi 2 would have to be evacuated from their homes – and many would never be allowed to return. And every year, they could commemorate the anniversary of Fermi 2’s meltdown.

The only way to make sure that never happens is to shut Fermi 2 down. It only produces 20% of DTE’s electricity, which could be easily replaced.

Fermi’s License Amendment #219

DTE applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to “Revise Technical Specifications to Remove Obsolete Information, Make Minor Corrections, and Make Miscellaneous Editorial Changes” in Fermi’s operating license.

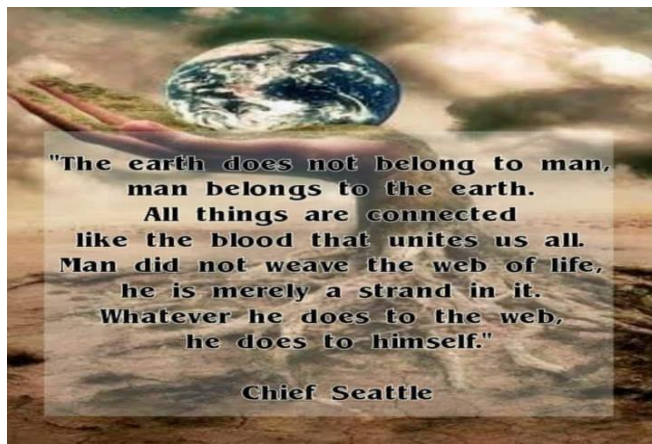
That is a mighty long title for whatever they have up their sleeve because the 117-page filing hardly seems worth the effort to those trying to sort it out.

It is full of seemingly ridiculous quotes: “a single line was used where a double line should have been used, a double line was used where a single line should have been used or a single or double line was used where no line was needed.”

And there was a brief mention of removing Hydrogen Recombiners from the list of outside containments that could contain highly radioactive fluids. What are Hydrogen Recombiners?

After an NRC web search, it turns out plenty of reactors are filing regarding these hydrogen recombiners. We are not surprised that DTE only alluded to the issue briefly while they raged on with their nonsensical rhetoric.

And before the month was out, the request was granted.



Fermi 1 Decommissioning Report

Fermi 1 is a permanently shut down experimental sodium-cooled breeder reactor, which experienced a partial meltdown in 1966.

Fermi 1's license expires in 2025 and it is now in SAFSTOR awaiting final decommissioning to remove remaining radioactive materials.

"The Fermi 1 trust fund is currently approximately \$21.0 million below estimated remaining costs," states the report. "A DTE Energy guarantee has been chosen as the assurance method for the shortfall."

Fermi 2 Decommissioning Report

Fermi 2 is an operating boiling water reactor with a licensed power of 3486 Megawatt Thermal whose operating license expires in 2045.

The collections for Fermi 2's decommissioning are included in DTE's ratepayers' bills. But are the ratepayers aware of:

"Currently, approximately \$3 million is being collected per year for Fermi 2 decommissioning," states the filing. "Currently, \$12 is being placed in the radiological nuclear decommissioning account

per year as the trust fund contains adequate funding for radiological decommissioning."

Yes, you read that right and then they add, "Most collections are being placed into other accounts."

The Michigan Public Service Commission sets DTE's rates, so should not they quit collecting our money for DTE to play with? What do we recommend DTE do with the money? Here's another quote from the document where the money could be applied.

"The costs of managing and storing spent fuel on site until transfer to DOE are not included in the cost formulas."

Check out the four-page document from the Documents Received Column.

Fermi's ISFSI Decommissioning

The NRC has begun requesting financial reports of reactors holding high-level nuclear waste on site in concrete cylinders called canisters.

Called Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI), they are basically concrete slabs outside of the reactors. Fermi loaded 18 canisters (each containing 64 bundles of spent fuel rods) before the pandemic hit.

This filing used DTE's 2014 numbers that the decommissioning costs would be \$7,988,500.

April Fermi Documents Received

= **ML21085A161**. Fermi's Property Insurance, which is approximately \$3 billion.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21085A161>

= **ML 20294A090**. Zip file with Beyond Nuclear filings to close Mark 1s until containment is secure.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML20294A090>

= **ML21090A194**. LAR to Revise Technical Specification. See article, page 2.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21090A194>

= **ML21090A027**. Fermi 1 Decommissioning Report. See article, page 3.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21090A027>

= **ML21090A300**. Fermi 2 Decommissioning Report. See article, page 3.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21090A300>

= **ML21099A101**. NRC Request for info for upcoming inspection.

= **ML21068A071**. Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) Decommissioning Report.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21068A071>

= **ML21099A101**. Info request for inspection.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21099A101>

= **ML21109A136**. DTE requests another work hour exemption because of Covid 19. See page 1.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21109A136>

= **ML21109AA374**. NRC grants the above request.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21109A374>
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21109A374>

= **ML21098A045**. NRC grants Fermi License Amendment #219.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21098A045>



To Devney Hamilton for his most generous donation.

To Allied Media for their grant.

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<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



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