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## DTE Files Fermi 2 NPDES #MI0037028 Renewal

DTE has filed a renewal application for Fermi 2's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, which allows the Fermi reactor to "...continually discharge a maximum of 45.1 million gallons per day (MGD) of cooling tower blowdown, processed radwaste wastewater, residual heat removal system service water, and treated chemical and nonchemical metal cleaning wastewater".

Water is life and we must do what we can to protect it, and Lake Erie is the one being harmed by legal dumping known as discharges. CRAFT will oppose this permit renewal and the changes it seeks, such as "The Company requests a waiver for submittal of analytical data for Outfalls 011 and 013."

If one stands on the lakefront at Monroe's Sterling State Park looking East, Fermi 2's Cooling towers are visible on the left/north side and DTE's coal burner on the right/south. Straight out in between those two outdated technology discharges is where algal blooms are jumpstarted with the cumulative impact of heated water.

Here is the State's response to our inquiry: "The NPDES permit expires October 1, 2022. The application was recently received and is currently going through application reviews. Effluent limitation development will be completed during the permit processing period between October 2022 through September 2023. Once completed, the draft permit will be placed on public notice for 30 days." Stay tuned and prepare to defend Lake Erie.

## Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two

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

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

<https://shutdownfermi.org>



## House Bill No. 6019 – Nuke Study

Michigan Rep. Joe Bellino is among twenty others (17 Republicans and 4 Democrats) sponsoring a bill in the Michigan House to study the issue of building another nuclear reactor in Michigan.

While it is presented as an amendment to a 1939 law, the bill reads like a DTE planning session, "The commission shall engage an outside consulting firm to conduct a feasibility study on nuclear energy generation in this state."

And we can only guess what they mean by, "potential acceleration or efficiencies and leveraging existing nuclear energy generation facilities within this state."

We are sure what they mean by asking that the study make, "Analysis of national international studies of cases where development of nuclear energy is supported and adopted." And "recommendation of current and future policies that may be needed to support or accelerate the adoption of nuclear energy generation..."

DTE is still pushing to build Fermi 3. Link to follow HB 6019 - there is icon upper right of menu to Comment. This will be Public Record, and we are trying to persuade Representatives. <https://legiscan.com/MI/text/HB6019/2021>

Link to HB 6019 language;

<https://legiscan.com/MI/text/HB6019/id/2570068/Michigan-2021-HB6019-Introduced.html>

“Anything else you’re interested in is not going to happen if you can’t breathe the air and drink the water. Don’t sit this one out. Do something. You are by accident of fate alive at an absolutely critical moment in the history of our planet.”

**Carl Sagan**



## MPSC - Stacking the Deck?

State regulators have hired a consulting firm with financial ties to both DTE and Consumers Energy to decide if Michigan should increase its use of Renewable Natural Gas (RNG), also called biogas.

RNG is being promoted by the gas industry saying it burns cleaner than fossil fuel natural gas, and they are pushing it as an alternative to wind, solar, and electrification. Critics disagree.

Last year, State Sen. Rick Outman introduced legislation requiring the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) to do a RNG study, and they hired ICF. (Outman received \$14,500 in campaign donations from DTE, Consumers, and Marathon).

ICF has at least five contracts with DTE and Consumers, and one company manager has served as an expert witness for DTE. ICF has previously done studies funded by DTE.

Natural gas (think fracking) currently generates about forty percent of the nation’s electricity but burns with elevated levels of methane and carbon dioxide. Biogas is captured from landfills or manure on commercial farms.

Since the gas industry has spent - and earned - billions of dollars in natural gas pipelines, they are confident they can switch them over to biogas. But consumer and environmental groups say No!

A Georgia Institute of Technology study found “RNG is not inherently climate-friendly” because of methane leaks.

The California Energy Commission found wind and solar much cheaper than RNG, and they feared biogas would generate demand for landfill or farm

waste which has its own set of environmental problems which is being noted in Michigan.

“Concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) are chock-full of pathogens, microorganisms, and bacteria that are capable of causing human disease,” said Cheryl Ruble, an infectious disease doctor in West Bloomfield, adding that RNG production would increase demand for animal waste when it should be reduced.

ICF held one public meeting in January, another will be held in June and their report is due in September.

## FYI - In the News

= U.S. Representative Fred Upton (Republican-Michigan), in office for 35 years, long-serving chair of the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee, and a leading pro-nuclear power advocate, has [announced his retirement](#).

= The Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO says DTE Energy is blocking progress on negotiating a first contract with a small unit of members that organized last year.

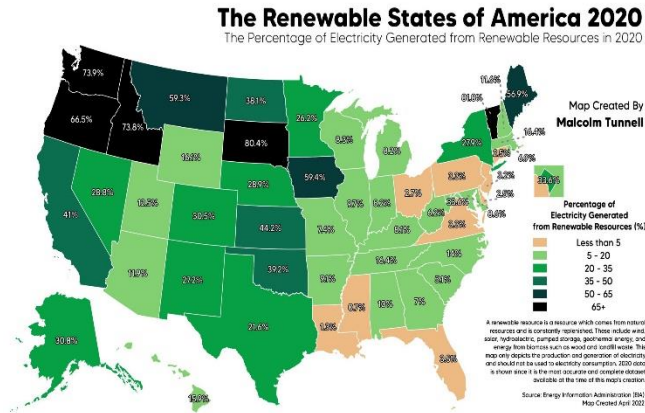
= State Reps. Abraham Aiyash and Yousef Rabhi, both Democrats, introduced legislation Wednesday that would tighten regulations on electrical utilities by penalizing them for power outages. House Bills 6043-6047 would require utilities to compensate customers for the costs of outages and would require regulators to hold evidentiary hearings on electrical distribution plans.

= In response to reporting by Outlier Media and ProPublica showing how DTE Energy disconnected electric accounts for nonpayment during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Detroit City Council is calling for the power company to enact a one-year pause on electricity and gas shut-offs.

= Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer releases a [statewide climate action plan](#) that includes calls for a carbon-neutral target by 2050, electric vehicle incentives and clean energy job training. (*Bridge Michigan*)

= Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced she will apply to the Biden administration for a massive federal taxpayer-funded bailout, to prop up the economically failed and very dangerously age-degraded Palisades atomic reactor.

= Michigan's two major electric utilities that jointly own the Ludington Pumped Hydro Storage power plant along Lake Michigan claim the contractor hired for a \$500 million upgrade of the facility has "delivered defective work" and is failing to meet contractual deadlines.



## Fermi 1 Decommissioning Fund

"Fermi 1 is a permanently shut down experimental sodium cooled breeder reactor, which last operated in 1972," states this year's filing. "It is in SAFSTOR status and at a future date decommissioning will be continued for the purpose of removing the remaining residual radioactive material and terminating the Fermi 1 license."

DTE's filing also states that Fermi's "Total net worth is \$8,705,000,000." Also, DTE spends \$150,000 per year for SAFSTOR maintenance which they expect to continue for another nine years.

## Fermi's License Event Report

Fermi automatically scrambled (shut down) on February 4<sup>th</sup> when it was at 57.9 % power and slowing down for the refueling outage. The report was filed showing that the scram was caused by low reactor water level.

Although a Root Cause Evaluation will not be conducted until after the completion of the refueling outage, but the report states, "the plant had known valve leak-by in the Feedwater system downstream of the Reactor Feed Pump."

The Corrective Actions that, "...valve that may have contributed to the Feedwater system's response is being cut out and replaced during the refueling outage."

## Fermi's License Amendment 222

Fermi's operating license continues to be amended as the years go by, this amendment is the 222<sup>nd</sup> time and it deals with Technical Specifications and changes.

One thing we do not understand is the continued use of RIP, which we are sure has a meaning other than what we are used to, but the document does not make that apparent, it just keeps using it as: "Applicability: Thermal Power  $\geq$  25% RIP."

## DTE Also Files Fermi 3 NPDES Permit Renewal

Although most people believe a Fermi 3 reactor will never be built, we will not believe that because DTE keeps all the licenses for its current. And after filing for the Fermi 2 Dumping renewal, DTE then filed for the Fermi 3 renewal.

Since there is no Fermi 3, all 163 pages of their application are moot. However, the start of the application is scary. "The withdrawal of cooling water removes and kills hundreds of billions of aquatic organisms from waters of the United States each year, including fish, shellfish, fish eggs, and larvae."

## CRAFT Public Zoom Meeting

This is an invitation to attend a zoom meeting with the CRAFT Steering Committee Team on Thursday May 5th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. We are not yet having In-Person meetings, but zoom is good. Here is the link for the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6559569802?pwd=ajMvRE5TNmVJaW1iWIRJalV2dnhZdz09>

## April Fermi Documents Received

= **ML22090A097**. Fermi 1 Decommissioning Funding Status. See article, page 2.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22090A097>

= **ML22090A144**. Request for more information about renewable materials license # 21-02335-09.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22090A144>

= **ML22096A267**. Request for Information regarding Baseline Inspection planned for August.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22096A267>  
 = **ML22094A212**. DTE's application to renew Fermi 2's NPDES.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22094A212>  
 = **ML21335A280**. Issuance of License Amendment 222. See article, page 3.

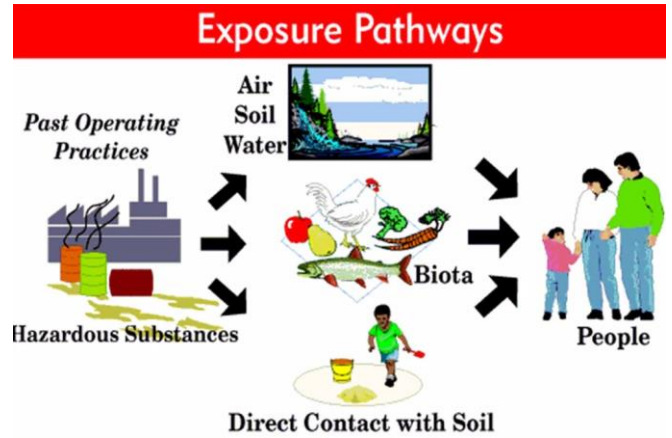
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21335A280>  
 = **ML22101A047**. Fermi 3 NPDES permit renewal application. See article, page 3.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22101A047>  
 = **ML22094A155**. License Event Report 2022-001. See article, page 3.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22094A155>  
 = **ML2212A054**. Zip File containing reissuance of license for a source material. ML22112A041, ML22112A020, MLL22090A144, ML22061A033

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22112A054>  
 = **ML22116A041**. NRC's In-Person Meeting.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22116A041>



## NRC In-Person Public Meeting

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will host an Open House to meet with the public and share information about the Fermi nuclear reactor.

This in-person event will be held at the Monroe County Court House, 125 East Second Street, Monroe, MI 48161. The date is Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 7 p.m.

## Tooth Fairy Project

Do you want to help with a scientific study? You do not need to be a scientist - all you need to do is donate a missing baby tooth from your child!!!! The Radiation and Public Health Project (RPHP) research group is asking for donations of baby teeth from children living near the Fermi nuclear reactor.

Please see [www.radiation.org](http://www.radiation.org), or contact Joe Mangano at [odiejoe@aol.com](mailto:odiejoe@aol.com) for more about this groundbreaking study.



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