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MPSC Holds DTE Pre-Hearings

DTE has two cases before the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) that will have pre-hearings this month. In Case number U-21260, DTE requested approval for reimbursement of its power supply cost for the twelve months ended December 31, 2023.

The pre-hearing will be held Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. Any interested person may participate.

In Case No. U-21482, the MPSC will consider DTE's application requesting MPSC to approve DTE's Electric Utility Interconnection Procedures.

This hearing will be Teleconferencing on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. People may call or write DTE Electric Company, One Energy Plaza, Detroit, MI 48226, (800) 477-4747, for free copies of its applications - or review the documents on the Commission's website at: michigan.gov/mpscdockets.

License Renewal Inspection

The NRC will begin a "Post-Approval Site Inspection for License Renewal phase 2" at Fermi on August 5, 2024. This inspection is to "verify that license conditions added as part of your renewed license and a sample of license renewal commitments have been implemented."

As our long-time readers know, CRAFT fought Fermi's 20-year license extension for many safety reasons, ones that DTE promised would be fixed by the time Fermi entered the new license period. Now is that time since the old license expires next year.

One of DTE's filings stated there are 37 commitments to be made for the new license period and another filing said 35. The list is available upon request.

Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two
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DTE Wants MORE Money!

Despite having some of the highest electricity rates in the country, DTE has applied to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) for another rate increase! One that would bump up the average ratepayer's bill by \$11 per month.

The only good news is that Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel (and others) called the request "absurd" and said her office will intervene.

"This latest rate hike request from DTE is, frankly, absurd in both the astounding dollars and obnoxious timing – requesting yet another \$450 million not even four months since their last rate hike was approved," said Nessel, referring to the \$368.1 million that MPSC granted DTE in December.

DTE says they need it – especially since Consumers latest price increase has kicked in. Lol.

Nessel has opened a website so people can tell their DTE horror stories. Here is the link - [a new website launched by Attorney General Dana Nessel](#).

Nessel also criticized DTE's 279-page 5-year distribution plan which she feels contains no new information – or penalties if DTE fails to provide solutions to outages or is penalized for not doing so. In five years, \$9 billion translated to \$4,350 per ratepayer. We think DTE is price-gouging.



Decommissioning Fermi 1

As you likely know, decommissioning means to clean up a site so it is no longer hazardous. Fermi 1, a sodium-cooled breeder reactor suffered a partial meltdown in 1972 and has not yet been cleaned up. But it did inspire a song and a shocking book, “We Almost Lost Detroit.”

Every year, DTE files a report with the NRC with the previous year’s Fermi 1 details. Some years they mention a hole in the roof that lets rainwater in, and so radioactive water has to be removed. Some years they talk about fixing the roof, but no mention of the hole in the roof this year. This year they just talk money.

“The Fermi 1 trust fund is currently approximately \$23.5 million below estimated remaining costs,” states DTE’s filing which tells us our utility bills donate \$3 million per year.

Seriously? I remember the NRC and DTE telling us the decommissioning trust fund is full and that’s why DTE only puts \$12 per year in it. Or was that only Fermi 2’s decommissioning fund?

GAO’s Report on Climate Change

A Government Accountability Office (GAO) report (GAO-24-106326) advised the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to take actions to include the potential effects of climate change when they license or renew licenses for the U.S. 54 operating nuclear reactors.

“NRC’s actions to address risks from natural hazards do not fully consider potential climate change effects,” stated the report which listed

heat; drought; wildfires; flooding; hurricanes; Sea level rise; and extreme cold weather events.

The report lists Fermi 2 as facing a flood hazard and gives examples of each hazard and directed the NRC to consider climate change in all licensing proceedings. Here is the full report: [**NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS: NRC Should Take Actions to Fully Consider the Potential Effects of Climate Change**](#)

FYI – Climate Crisis News

= Michigan’s attorney general says DTE Energy’s latest request for a [\\$456.4 million rate increase](#) for infrastructure investments is “absurd” given the amount and timing soon after another increase. (*Bridge*)

= Michigan’s attorney general [launches a new website](#) for residents to file complaints against utilities and learn more about the rate-making process. (*WXYZ*)

= Walmart and Consumers Energy [reach an agreement](#) to offset the power needs of 44 of the retail giant’s Michigan stores with renewable energy. (*Detroit News*)

= A group organizing a ballot initiative to [repeal a new Michigan law](#) giving state regulators more authority over renewable energy siting is accused of campaign finance violations. (*Michigan Public*)

= Residents of a Michigan township raise concerns about [a planned natural gas pipeline and interconnection facility](#) near a popular local trail. (*Click On Detroit*)

= A package of bipartisan bills would create [incentives and remove barriers](#) for establishing small modular nuclear reactors in Michigan. (*WNEM*)

= As utility and local officials celebrate [a DTE Energy gas pipeline extension](#), climate advocates say Michigan should focus on electric heating instead of expanding fossil fuel infrastructure. (*IPR/Grist*)

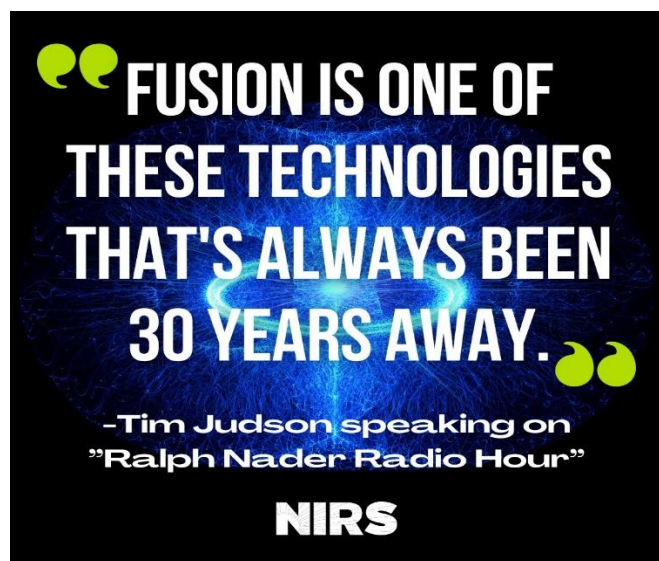
= [Detroit](#) and [Indianapolis](#) received failing grades in a new air quality ranking from the American Lung Association that cited industrial and transportation pollution as primary causes. (*Planet Detroit; WTHR*)

= The White House designates Michigan as [one of four “workforce hubs” in the country](#), dedicating funding to training programs for electric vehicle manufacturing. (*UPI*)

NRC Rescinds What Violation?

As the result of a “Cyber Security Inspection,” Fermi was given three violations, but because of “Security Related Information” only the NRC’s cover letter was made public.

DTE objected to the violations – again just a cover letter – and so the NRC “has withdrawn a violation that was issued on October 5, 2023.”



Restart the Palisades Reactor?

The Palisades Nuclear Plant Restart Panel, an “independent panel” according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), held a meeting called the first outreach event.

“I was there. Most speakers were anti-restart, though the audience was split about 50/50,” said Joseph DeMare, host of the For a Green Future podcast. DeMare said approximately 300 people attended the meeting in Benton Harbor and others attended online. “NRC did a lot of lying that night.”

Palisades stopped producing electricity in May 2022 and was purchased by Holtec International, a decommissioning company. The federal government has offered Holtec a \$1.5 billion loan to restart, and the Michigan legislature has kicked in \$300 million.

Speakers in favor of restarting the reactor spoke to the economic benefits, while those opposed to restarting spoke of safety and the environment.

Change in NRC’s Review Schedule

Just to show that we don't make this stuff up, here is a letter from the NRC to DTE at Fermi saying, “The NRC staff now estimates that this licensing request will take a total of approximately 1,030 hours to complete the review and the staff expects to complete its review by April 11, 2025.”

It will take the NRC a year. No telling what Fermi can get up to by then.

ADAMSWEBSEARCH2.NRC.GOV

adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov

Fermi Doing a 40-Day Shutdown

On the Ides of March, workers began down-powering Fermi for its refueling outage. The reactor helped them out and scrambled (shut itself down) on March 23rd. Fermi is still refueling.

Silent Fallout: Baby Teeth Speak

The Alliance to Halt Fermi-3 presents a special preview screening of the documentary: “Citizen Science: Baby Teeth Reveal Health Risk of nuclear weapons and Nuclear Power,” written, directed, filmed, edited, and produced by Hideaki Ito and narrated by Alec Baldwin.

To be held on Wednesday, May 8th, 2024, 6:30 pm - 8:30pm at the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Rd., Livonia, MI. Everyone is welcome to attend this free event.

Holtec Sues New York State!

Holtec, the manager of the Indian Point nuclear reactor, has sued the State of New York for passing a law to prevent the reactor from dumping nuclear wastewater into the Hudson River.

Holtec charges that the state does not have the authority to make a law against their discharges, only the federal government can make such a law. They are citing the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit is the law, and states can lump it if they do not like it.

“Save the Hudson” was a law fought for by the environmental group Riverkeeper. Their lawyer, Victoria Leung feels differently.

“There is case law, there is legal precedent that states are allowed to enact regulations to protect

their economic interests, even one that intersects with the nuclear field," she said.

CRAFT would like to see a "Save Lake Erie" from the Fermi 2 thermal and wastewater discharges.

April Fermi Documents Received

= **ML24082A159**. Baseline Inspection Report. The cover letter mentions one violation, but it does not list it or give any details, it said security.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML24082A159>

= **ML24080A391**. Request for Info for NRC post. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML24080A391>

= **ML24091A001**. Fermi 1 decommissioning report. See article, page 2.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML24091A001>

= **ML24095A344**. Reissue of Cyber Security Inspection Report. See article, page 2.

= **ML24088A216**. Change in Schedule. See page 2.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML24088A216>

= **ML24095A344**, See article, page 2. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML24095A344>

= **ML24101A373**. Request for information for NRC commercial grade inspection.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML24101A373>

= **ML17298B242** Aging Management Programs re Fermi's License Extension.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML17298B242>

= **Event Number 57046**. DTE filed to revise their report on Fermi's March 23rd scram.

= **Event Number 57088**. Global Nuclear Fuel filed a notice that some GNF3 fuel assembly spacers are defective. Fermi is one of the reactors with the spaces installed, but none tested defective.

= **MI24100A842**, Request for Info for license renewal inspection, See article, page 1.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML24100A842>



Thanks to Mark Farris for the Contribution!



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