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Fermi 2's Decommissioning Money

This brief report states that, "The collections for Fermi 2 decommissioning are included in DTE Electric Company's rate. Currently, approximately \$3 million is being collected per year for Fermi 2 decommissioning." But then it goes on to tell us that, "Currently, \$12 is being placed in the radiological nuclear decommissioning account per year as the trust presently contains adequate funding for radiological decommissioning."

So DTE is collecting \$3 million from the rate payers and putting it \$12 where it is intended to go, and then they invest the rest however they wish.

The filing states, "An external sinking fund is being used to accumulate monies for the decommissioning of Fermi 2."

And the fine print states, "The cost of dismantling or demolishing non-radiological systems and structures is not included in the NRC decommissioning costs estimates. The costs of managing and storing spent fuel on site until transfer to the Department of Energy are not included in the cost formulas."

This happens yearly and justice would be served if DTE took a rate decrease and let the rate payers decide how to spend their portion of the \$3 million.

But the filing shows us DTE can manage our money better than we can (joking), "All decommissioning costs are assumed to increase at 3.8% annually; decommissioning funds are assumed to earn at 4.8% after-tax."

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 CRAFT website home page](#)

Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two

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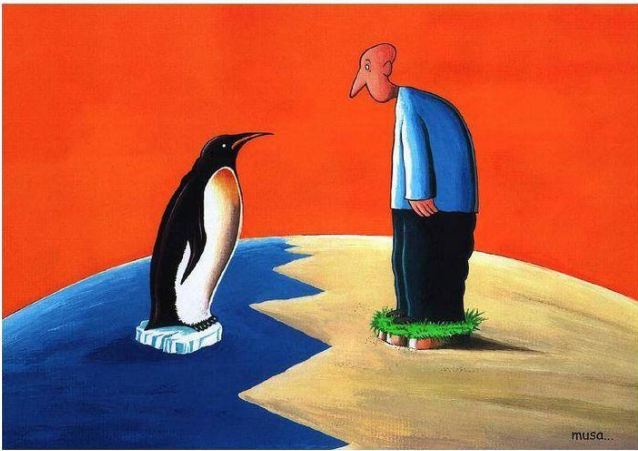
Michigan Senate Bill No. 271

Michigan Senate Bill 271 sponsored by Sen. Erika Geiss (D-Taylor), would amend the 2008 Clean and Renewable Energy and Energy Waste Reduction Act to remove biomass, landfill gas and fuel produced from waste as renewable energy resources.

However, it would add nuclear energy as a clean energy source. "A renewable energy plan starting in 2035 credits approved nuclear energy toward the clean energy requirement or renewable portfolio plan." The bill is on a fast track to becoming law. We think it is the next step in bringing another nuclear reactor to Michigan.

Here are the co-sponsors of the bill if you want to ask them to drop the nuclear from the renewable, clean energy list: Sam Singh, Mallory McMorro, Mary Cavanagh, Jeff Irwin, Sylvia Santana, Sue Shink, Stephanie Chang, Darrin Camilleri, Kevin Hertel, Jeremy Moss, Rosemary Bayer, Winnie Brinks, Sarah Anthony, Dayna Polehanki.

Here is the Senate link if you want to keep track. [https://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(quuzpbeoddkk04qaxrspnsd\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=GetObject&objectName=2023-SB-0271](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(quuzpbeoddkk04qaxrspnsd))/mileg.aspx?page=GetObject&objectName=2023-SB-0271)



DTE Seeks More of Our Money

It would be nice to write an issue without notifying our readers that wealthy DTE is trying to get more money out of the ratepayers. This time it is for “recovery of certain qualified costs through the issuance of securitization bonds.”

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) held a pre-hearing regarding DTE’s April 3, 2023, application on April 27, 2023, to consider DTE’s cost reimbursement under Customer Choice and Electricity Reliability Act (CCERA). This is DTE’s Case No. U-21338.

Another pre-hearing conference will be held on May 16, 2023 in DTE’s Case U-21051 application requesting the Commission to: 1) approve DTE Electric’s 2022 Power Supply Cost Recovery (PSCR) reconciliation as proposed; 2) authorize DTE Electric to collect its total PSCR under-recovery at year-end 2022 of \$420,616,238 including interest.

Here Comes the Pro-Nuke Hype

Two Michigan state representatives, Graham Filler (R-Clinton County) and Samantha Steckloff (D-Farmington Hills) did an Op-Ed in the *Detroit Free Press* advocating more nuclear energy.

The article has many mistaken opinions, starting with saying Enrico Fermi built the first nuclear reactor in Chicago. Enrico Fermi was a scientist, not a construction worker.

The article ended with how nuclear reactors stayed on-line during the power outages. Too bad, their electricity did not get to homes without power.

Here is a good response to the article:

Dear Free Press Readership,

Michigan consumption of electricity generated by nuclear power is less than 10%. Please remember that 90% of the nuclear energy from D.C. Cook is sold out of state and consumed out of state. From the years 2003 through 2020 Fermi 2 had the second worst electric generation performance of any nuclear plant in the nation.

Early in 2024 Fermi 2 will be going down for at least 9 months to install a now refurbished Stator Generator. The torus repair that was done in Refueling Outage number 20 (In 2020) has been a complete failure and must be replaced again. That RFO 20 at Fermi resulted in 500 cases of COVID-19 first showing up in the torus repair March 3rd, preceding the first case reported in Michigan.

Thousands of tons of high-level nuclear waste remain on the shores of the Great Lakes. The first rule when you find yourself getting buried in a hole is to stop digging the hole. Michigan legislators must engage in due diligence and apply a prudence standard.

Thank you,

Michael J. Keegan, Don’t Waste Michigan

Fermi’s Property Insurance

DTE filed their info on Fermi’s Property Insurance. It is with the Nuclear Electric Insurance Limited, \$1.50 billion; Nuclear Electric Excess, \$1.25 billion; and Everen (formerly Oil Insurance), \$300 million.

FYI – Climate Crisis News

= An Ohio bill would ban fracking for an estimated [4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas](#) beneath Lake Erie, but drilling in the Great Lakes is already blocked under federal law and the oil and gas industry said there is no known interest in doing so. (ABC 5)

= Michigan hires an engineering firm to launch a [nuclear feasibility study](#) that could help determine whether new reactors are built in the state as part of a clean energy strategy. (MLive)

= Ann Arbor, Michigan, officials approve a [list of requested actions](#) by its utility, DTE Energy, to improve grid reliability after recent extended outages. (MLive)

= Consumers Energy is about to start a [\\$550 million natural gas pipeline replacement](#)

project that passes through several natural areas in southeastern Michigan. (*MLive*)

= A Michigan Republican plans to introduce a bill that would make state utility regulator posts an elected position rather than a governor appointee in an effort to strengthen utility oversight. (*Metro Times*)

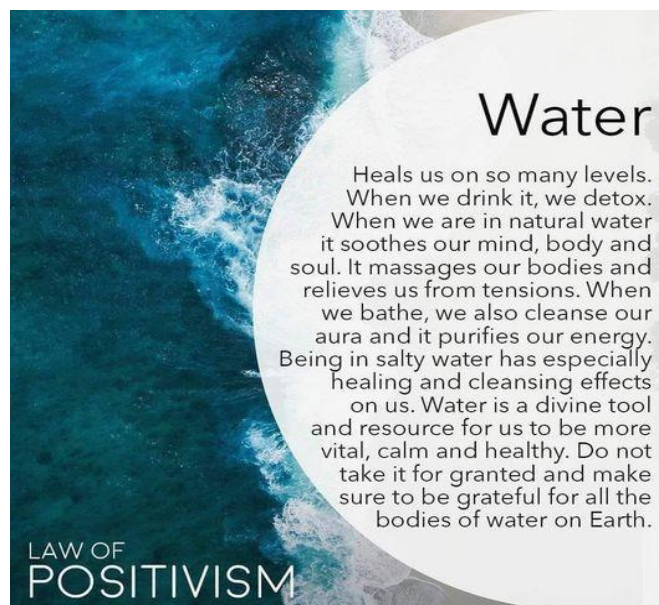
= The owner of a closed southwestern Michigan nuclear plant asks the state to commit \$300 million to help reopen the plant. (*Herald Palladium*)

= Michigan Senate Democrats plan to introduce legislation requiring utilities to produce 100% carbon-free power by 2035 and eliminate coal use by 2030. (*Bridge Michigan*)

= Sen. Jim Runestad, R-White Lake plans to introduce legislation to increase transparency and accountability for utility companies and their dark money friends. The bill would establish new lobbying requirements for utility providers and change the way members of the Michigan Public Service Commission are chosen. (*MetroTimes*)

= A seven-bill package from Michigan Democrats would update renewable energy standards, set a clean fuel standard, reduce building emissions and allow state regulators to consider climate factors when evaluating utility plans. (*Michigan Advance*)

= A southeastern Michigan city with its own electric utility reports fewer and shorter outages — and more customer satisfaction — compared to large investor-owned utilities. (*WDIV*)



Is Palisades a Zombie Reactor?

The update on Palisades' last month's article is that besides the two representatives doing the pro-nuke op-ed (discussed on this page), two more politicians came out publicly to support reopening, Rep. Joey Andrews, and Senate Minority Leader Aric Newbitt.

"I'm pretty pro-nuclear in general," said Andrews who joined with Governor Whitmer's spokesperson Bobby Leddy to stress the financial benefits of the operating reactor. Holtec is seeking \$300 million from the state to accompany a \$1 billion loan from the Department of Energy.

None of them mentioned the dangers of the decrepit reactor or what to do with the waste.

And Zombie NPDES Permits?

A nationwide problem exists with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits (NPDES) that we have faced here in Michigan with the Fermi 2 nuclear reactor's NPDES.

The problem is that a permit may be issued for up to five years, but the Clean Water Act (CWA) states that if a timely application for renewal is filed, the permit is automatically extended until a new permit is issued. Those are called "Zombie" permits.

The state of Maryland decided to do something about it, since the state already has 140 zombie permits. Their legislation passed a law that the Maryland Department of the Environment must clear its entire backlog of zombie permits by December 31, 2026.

How does this relate to the Fermi 2 reactor? How do we prevent it from being a zombie permit? Good questions. Here is what we know.

DTE applied to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to renew Fermi's NPDES under the CWA on April 4, 2022, and EGLE has not issued a draft new permit for the public to comment on.

It took the state (now EGLE, formerly the DEQ) four years to issue the permit Fermi discharges on now – and we believe our public awareness campaign encouraged them to issue it. That permit had no limits on phosphorus! The current permit limits Fermi to thirty pounds per day – which is too much, but better than no limit at all.

What we at CRAFT want to see in the new permit is thermal limits. There is a lot of documentation provided on the link between heated discharges and the growth of algal blooms. Thermal discharges also invite invasive species into the warmer water.

The Fermi 2 reactor withdraws 45.1 million gallons per day of Lake Erie water to cool the reactor and then returns the water to the lake heated.

DTE Foundation Food Award

The DTE Foundation gave \$3 million to United Way for Southeastern Michigan food insecurity by providing 20,000 Kroger \$100 food vouchers. The rest of the money went to food banks.



Trying to make a safer world can be fun. This was at the Monroe Earth Day Expo.



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April Fermi Documents Received

= **ML23089A074**. Fermi 2 Decommission Fund Report. See Article, page 1.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23089A074>

= **ML23095A085**. Triennial Fire Protection Inspection Report. Fermi received a non-cited violation “between 2001 and 2021, the licensee failed to maintain a written procedure...resulted in insufficient automatic flow and pressure to be delivered to the Emergency Diesel Generating Fuel and Oil Storage Tank rooms for fire suppression.” A Corrective Action Plan Document (CARD) was filed instead.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23095A085>

= **ML23093A071**. Property Insurance Coverage

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23093A071>

See article, page 2.