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Another Rate Hike for DTE?

“I have introduced dozens of bills to try to expand solar energy in Michigan and every one of those bills has been blocked – not by some external alien force, it’s DTE,” testified State Rep. Yousef Rabhi, D-Ann Arbor at the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC)’s public hearing on DTE’s latest rate hike request. “It’s their lobbyists in the hallway telling legislators to take their names off my bills.”

Why would they not co-sponsor bills that would benefit ratepayers? Of Michigan’s 148 senators and representatives, 138 have received DTE campaign contributions. (*Rabhi is one of the ten who did not*)

Governor Whitmer, \$235,900; Sen. Aric Nesbitt, R-Lawton, \$69,500; Sen. Jim Ananich, D-Flint, \$67,950; Sen. Ken Horn, R-Frankenmuth, \$53,250; Dan Lauwers, R-Brockway Township, \$25,400; Rep. Donna Lasinski, Scio Township, \$50,300; Rep. Joe Bellino, R-Monroe, \$36,820 (and DTE paid for his entrance in a golf tournament); and the list goes on.

“What does DTE do when it’s not shutting people off or failing to fix outages?” testified U.S. Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Detroit, against the DTE rate hike. “They’re jacking up your rates.”

Since the MPSC has never denied DTE a raise, we do not expect them to do so now, unfortunately.

NRC’s New Fermi 2 Inspector

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has appointed John Gewargis to be their new resident inspector at the Fermi nuclear reactor.

Prior to joining the NRC in 2021, Gewargis worked for the Naval Nuclear Laboratories. He holds a bachelor’s degree in chemical and biomolecular engineering with a minor in mathematics from the University of Illinois.

Citizens’ Resistance at Fermi Two

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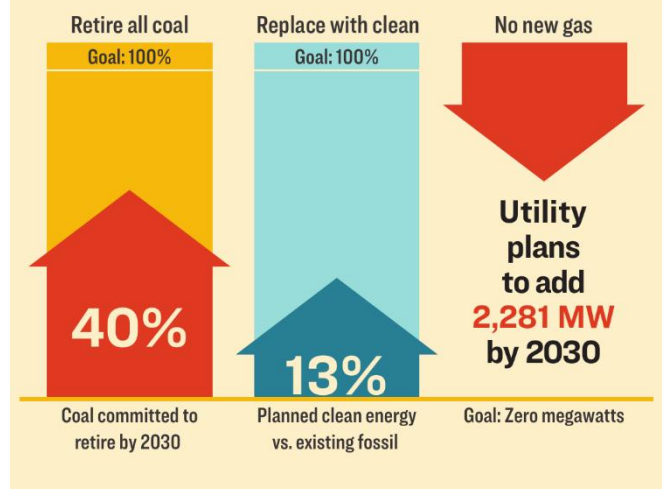
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<https://shutdownfermi.org>

DTE ELECTRIC GETS AN **F** for its clean energy transition plan



HR6019 Is Now a Reality

The bill to study building more nuclear reactors in Michigan (and opening closed ones) HR6019 was heard in the Senate Technology Committee and approved by the full Senate with 32 votes in favor and only 2 opposed.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed the bill immediately without public comment. However, Republican State Rep. Graham Filler had plenty to say including, “Nuclear power generation is a safe, clean, and emissions-free option.” (*His proof is?*)

And the official fiscal analysis is, “The results of the feasibility study could have a positive impact for the state if the consulting firm found that there was potential for nuclear energy in Michigan; however, that impact would depend on the results of the study.”

That statement suggests what the state wants the outcome to be. It seems to us that this is one more time a backroom deal has been made by the Golden Rule, “Who has the gold gets to make the rules.”



DTE License Amendment Request

In response to three Nuclear Regulatory Commission violations for Fermi having “Emergency Cooling Core Suction (ECCS) Suction Strainer Blockage,” DTE has notified the NRC that they will file a License Amendment Request to a “Risk Informed Approach.”

In DTE’s background statement tells us that “Results of this risk-informed analysis form the basis of a request to amend the license basis to accept the additional debris sources based on low risk following the guidance.”

Later they add, “All presumed failures are caused by 1/8th-inch fiber accumulation.” Fermi’s ECCS strainers were replaced in 1998.

And so we went to an expert, NRC Retired Inspector Samuel Miranda who said, “A “risk informed” evaluation is a way to claim compliance with requirements, based upon some probabilistic assumptions and calculations. With the right assumptions and methods, one can get any result that is desired; it is easier to write a risk informed report that says clogging is not likely, than it is to eliminate the insulation that could be torn off by a LOCA and clog the ECCS strainers.”

FYI – In the News!

= According to the latest [World Nuclear Industry Status Report](#), the average cost of generating solar power is now \$37 per megawatt hour, while wind comes in at \$41, gas at \$59 and nuclear at \$163.

= Michigan regulators [order an independent audit](#) and detailed reports from the state’s two largest utilities on grid reliability compliance measures as the public grows increasingly

frustrated with long, storm-related outages. (*Planet Detroit*)

= DTE Energy and its executives and lobbyists have [made campaign contributions](#) to 138 of Michigan’s 148 state senators and representatives, totaling more than \$1 million, according to a watchdog group. (*Metro Times*)

= Detroit-area nonprofit Souldarity is building a [“blueprint for energy democracy”](#) as it backs more local solar generation and advocates for more favorable, community-based policies. (*Canary Media*)

= DTE Energy [disputes a recent](#) report suggesting that the utility has prioritized grid infrastructure upgrades in wealthier, White communities ahead of low-income communities of color in southeastern Michigan. (*WDET*)

= 7-Eleven signs a deal with DTE Energy to provide [100% renewable energy](#) to its 160 Southeast Michigan locations. (*CBS Detroit*)

= A Michigan startup battery manufacturer [breaks ground on a \\$1.6 billion gigafactory](#) near Detroit. (*WXYZ*)

= Midwest utility executives tell investors that tax credits in the Inflation Reduction Act will [reduce the cost of clean energy projects](#), hold down rates and lead to even greater investments. (*E&E News*)

Michigan Sells Carbon offsets

A recent article in the *Great Lakes Echo* states Michigan officials have created a 100,000-acre project in the Pigeon River Country State Forest to sell “carbon credits” to businesses to offset their pollution. One “carbon credit” equals one metric ton of carbon dioxide emission.

The officials are presenting this like it is a brand-new plan, but we reported on DTE making a deal with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to buy carbon credits from the Pigeon River Country State Forest for \$10 million in the September 2021 issue.

Planet Detroit did a couple of articles. “Low carbon” grants: Michigan is making \$50 million available to nonprofits, governments and businesses for [“low carbon” energy infrastructure projects](#) that could include natural gas, renewable natural gas, or electrification projects. Although these grants could help build energy infrastructure

in rural areas, [the program has come in for criticism](#) because it could help large, politically-connected utilities like DTE Energy and Consumers Energy finance projects. (Detroit News)



NRC uses CRAFT as Acronym!

“The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is sullyng CRAFT’s good name,” said Michael Keegan of Don’t Waste Michigan. “Here is the NRC excerpt: Collaborative Research on Advanced Fuel Technologies (CRAFT) for Light-Water Reactors.”

Fermi 1 Decommissioning Funds

One line worth quoting in DTE’s filing on the shutdown Fermi 1 reactor speaks to funds collected for the reactor that has not yet been fully decommissioned.

“The NRC staff also verified the amount(s) stated within the licensee’s decommissioning trust fund for Fermi 1 as of December 31, 2021, as well as earning assumptions and the balance of any other decommissioning funds.”

It makes us wonder if the reason Fermi 1 has not been fully decommissioned is they are still making money off the funds instead of spending it as it was meant to be.

That would explain why DTE keeps talking about putting on a new roof to replace the leaky one. But there is yet to be an explanation for the

tritium spill and a sodium fire in 2008, 36 years after it shut down in 1972.

Oct. Fermi Documents Received

= **ML22216A006**. License Amendment Request regarding Strainers. See article, page 2.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22216A006>

= **ML22285A243**. Emergency Preparedness Biennial Exercise Inspection Report.

= **ML22285A101**. Fermi 1 Decommissioning Funding Report. See article, page 3.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22285A101>

Fermi’s NPDES Permit Update

Fermi Two’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit expired on October 1, 2022, however since DTE filed for a new permit on April 4, 2022, Fermi can continue to discharge into Lake Erie and Swan Creek.

A few nuclear reactors have limits on how hot the discharge water is, but Fermi does not. Since heat is one cause of algal blooms, we would like that to happen. Algal blooms are dangerous to marine life and if left unchecked, can create “dead zones” where there is not enough oxygen for water ecosystems to breathe.

We are following EGLE’s reporting to keep you informed. But to receive your own notifications regarding the permit, contact Elaine Wild at wilde2@michigan.gov.

Rosatom is a Nuclear Problem

In our April 2022 issue, we reported that although about 20% of U.S. nuclear fuels comes from Russia, we could not track any of it to Fermi. The Russian-made fuel rods being sold in this country come from Joint Stock Company TVEL, a Russian company owned by Rosatom, a state-run agency founded by Putin in 2007.

FYI - Rosatom also owns/controls these nuclear companies: Electricite de France SA; Rolls-Royce Holdings PLC; Centrus Energy Corp; Urenco Nederland BV; and Urenco Ltd.

Russia’s war on Ukraine has made it unpopular here and the U.S. firms developing and promoting small nuclear reactors to cut carbon emissions

have a problem. Only one company sells the fuel these small reactors need - Rosatom.

The fuel needed for the small reactors is “High assay low enriched uranium (HALEU)” HALEU is uranium enriched to 20% while current reactor fuel is only enriched to 5%. Weapons grade is 90%.

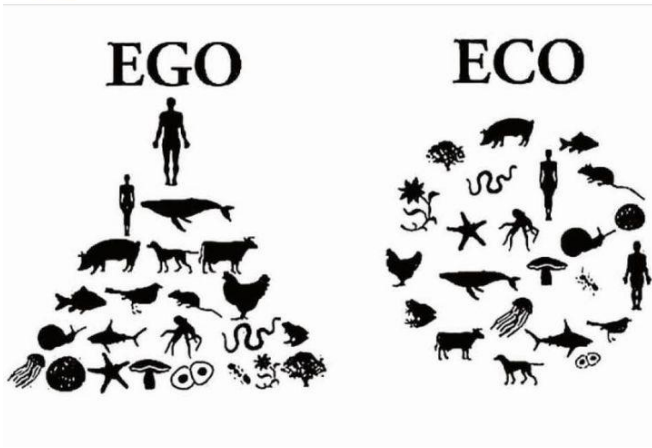
Currently, only Rosatom manufactures HALEU – a problem for those promoting small reactors.

Zombies Against Palisades (ZAP)

Beyond Nuclear (BN) and Don't Waste Michigan (DWM) held a zombie protest rally against reviving Palisades as a would-be zombie nuke reactor, Sat., Oct. 29, at the State Capitol in Lansing, MI.

Holtec, Inc., the new owner of the shuttered southwestern Michigan nuclear reactor, expects to decide by January whether to reopen the plant, a decision largely contingent on receiving federal funding.

“ZAP made sense. The folks and orgs that gathered have been long presenting and arguing the case against Palisades for decades on the higher levels of government,” said Jesse DeerInWater, CRAFT Community Organizer and one of the event speakers. “For the state of Michigan to be this out of touch has me questioning a lot about the current Michigan Leadership.”



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