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Here Comes Money for Hydrogen

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) turned down Davis-Besse's application to produce hydrogen using nuclear but gave \$1 billion to a Michigan-based "Hydrogen Hub" to develop regional supply chains for the production, distribution, and use of hydrogen in transportation.

The Midwest Alliance for Clean Hydrogen (MachH2) has proposed to develop a hydrogen hub to serve Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Kentucky, and Missouri. Ohio is not included.

MachH2 is supported by roughly 70 partners, including the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority, Holtec International, Flint Mass Transportation Authority, ExxonMobil, area universities, and energy companies (that are not named, but should be).

The Michigan Infrastructure Office is working with MachH2 to build a hydrogen "Truck Stop of the Future" in the Detroit area. MachH2 will also oversee the construction of a hydrogen production facility at the American Center for Mobility in Ypsilanti and the expansion of refueling center at the Flint Mass Transportation Authority. To use the hydrogen in shipping, the transportation industry would have to build refueling stations all along highways.

Creating hydrogen fuel is not carbon-free if the electricity used comes from fossil fuels. The DOE said MachH2 will use "diverse and abundant energy sources" which includes renewable energy, natural gas, and **nuclear**. Most hydrogen fuel now being produced comes from natural (fracking) gas.

"The fossil fuel industry is working to continue our nation's reliance on fossil fuels and hydrogen offers another possible inroad for Big Oil and Gas to lock in polluting uses of gas for decades to come," said Sierra Club Director Ben Jealous.

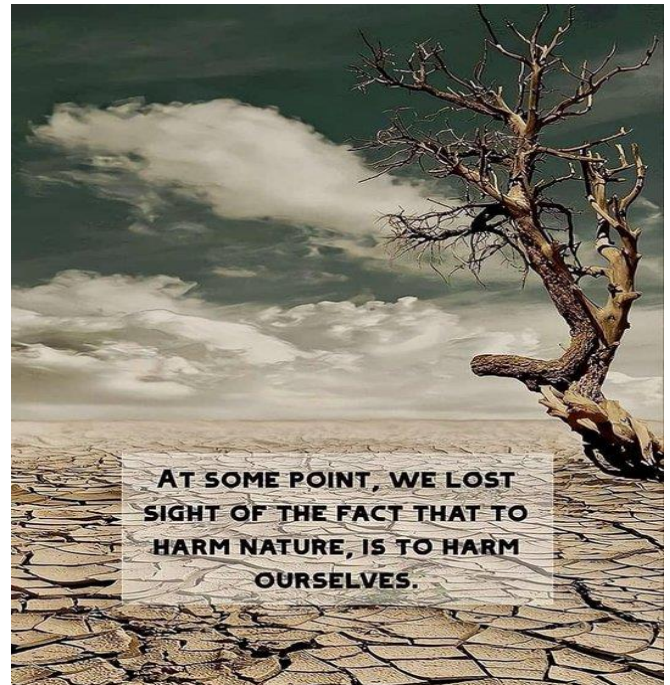
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NPDES Public Hearing

CRAFT and over 200 other groups and individuals filed comments with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), in opposition to DTE's permit request to continue impacting Lake Erie with dangerously heated wastewater discharge from their troubled nuclear power facility Fermi 2. And we requested a public hearing.

Our filing, submitted with hundreds of public signatures in support, is the product of one and a half years of coordination and research by a grassroots coalition of organizations and environmental law centers assembled by CRAFT.

EGLE granted us an Online Meeting and Hearing to be held on November 28, 2023, at 6 p.m. See the insert for details on joining in and submitting comments.

The permit number is MI0037028 if you need to know that to see the proposed permit at <https://miwaters.deq.mi.us>.



DTE Distribution Grid Plan

DTE announced a plan it said would greatly reduce frequent its outages. Currently, DTE is ranked 38th out of 40 comparable size utilities, but they claim they will increase reliability by 60% within five years.

Their “distribution grid plan” calls for DTE to invest \$9 billion, which includes tree trimming, updating infrastructure, rebuilding portions of the grid and speeding up transition to a smart grid.

Rebuilding sections of the grid would entail new substations in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Port Huron, Almont Township, Lenox Township, Van Buren Township, Plymouth Township, and Lapeer.

The plan includes five miles of lines buried underground, beginning in Detroit’s Davison and Buffalo-Charles neighborhoods. DTE also plans to fully automate the grid within five years by installing 10,000 smart devices.

Separately, DTE filed for a \$620 million rate increase last February.

Exigent License Amendment

After receiving license amendment #225, which allowed seven days instead of 72 hours to repair the gearbox pedestals of Cooling Fans A and C, DTE then submitted a request for License Amendment #226 stating, “That original amendment did not contain all required Technical Specification Completion Time extensions needed to perform this work online.”

The filing does give interesting information such as Fan B was repaired in 2009 and although

the gearbox pedestal is degraded, it will make it to the planned outage in the spring. Fans A and C are original equipment and have never been repaired.

Reasons Against Nuclear Power

(Adapted from an October 11, 2023, NB Media Co-Op article by Sam Arnold and Ann McAllister. Their article has a paragraph of proof under each statement.

[https://nbmediacoop.org/2023/10/11/commentary-ten-reasons-why-nuclear-power-has-no-future/.](https://nbmediacoop.org/2023/10/11/commentary-ten-reasons-why-nuclear-power-has-no-future/))

1. Nuclear Power is too slow to help mitigate the climate crisis.
2. Nuclear power is too expensive compared to alternatives.
3. Chronic exposure to radioactive pollutants emitted from nuclear power plants can damage human health.
4. Liquid sodium and molten salt reactors pre-dating the ARC and Moltex SMR designs were unreliable and dangerous.
5. Nuclear power does not work effectively with renewable energy.
6. Radioactive waste remains an unsolved conundrum and will be an ongoing cost to taxpayers far into the future.
7. Many Indigenous leaders and First Nations are skeptical of nuclear reactors, nuclear waste, environmental risks, and groundwater contamination posed by the long-term storage of such wastes.
8. Transporting radioactive waste long distances to a proposed geological repository would come with higher costs and an increased risk of accidents.
9. Nuclear weapons are dependent on energy from the plutonium produced at nuclear power plants, making them partners in all nuclear weapons produced.
10. The cost of decommissioning nuclear reactors must be added to all expenses incurred at every link in the nuclear chain.

Whitmer is Great Lakes Chair

Governor Gretchen Whitmer was named the new chair of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers, who work together for the region’s \$6 trillion economy and protect the world’s largest system of surface fresh water.



FYI – Climate Crisis News

= The Michigan Senate along party lines passes a series of climate bills that call for 100% clean electricity by 2040, increase utility energy efficiency requirements and grow distributed generation programs. (*Detroit Free Press*)

= Detroit-based DTE Energy unveils a five-year, \$9 billion plan to improve grid reliability through more aggressive tree trimming and updated infrastructure. (*MLive*)

= Wayne County in Michigan has become a dumping ground for hazardous waste, with Wayne Disposal Inc. and Michigan Disposal Inc. receiving millions of tons of dangerous chemicals. The large amounts of toxic waste coming into the state go unnoticed by the public. Hazardous waste companies say their facilities “provide a necessary service.” (Freep)

= The owner of a recently shuttered Michigan nuclear plant will soon seek a license transfer needed to reopen the facility, which could happen by August 2025. (*Holland Sentinel*)

= A newly opened Ohio uranium enrichment plant hopes to sell fuel for use in small modular nuclear reactors, but a recent study raises questions about whether the technology can compete with renewables. (*Energy News Network*)

=Michigan Democrats advance legislation out of committee that would set a 100% clean energy target by 2040 and include nuclear and natural gas that uses carbon capture. (*MLive*)

= Detroit-based utility DTE Energy has given \$176,000 to Michigan lawmakers and related funds since a February ice storm this year caused widespread outages and calls for improved reliability. (*Energy and Policy Institute*)

= A Michigan electric cooperative has applied for millions of dollars in federal funding to pay for power purchased from a nuclear plant that’s in the process of reopening. (*Crain’s Grand Rapids Business*)

Michigan Healthy Climate Plan

The Michigan Senate is in turmoil on energy legislation and DTE “dark money” contributions. Formerly there was a 2025 date for utilities to reach carbon neutrality and a 2030 date for phasing out coal plants. However, State Senator Erika Geiss (D-Taylor) has offered changes to SB 271, giving the utilities another decade by moving the carbon neutrality to 2040.

The *Detroit News* reported DTE had given \$2 million to Democrats in 2022. “These contributions do not get charged to our customers,” said DTE spokesperson Peter Ternes, “but instead are allocated to shareholders.”

Oct. Fermi Documents Received

= **ML23271A188**. Exigent License Amendment Request re: Technical Specs. See article, page 2.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23271A188https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23271A188>

= Inspection Report with four violations marked Security Related, not for public view.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23276B454>

= **ML232272A156**. Federal Registration Notice. See page 2.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23272A156>

= **ML23272A155**. NRC issues Notice of Consideration of issuance of amendment.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23272A155>

= ML23276A005. Email from DTE’s Eric Frank to NRC’s Surinder Arora telling him sorry that he cannot make the information deadline.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23276A005>

= **ML23283A021**. A zip file containing 13 documents dealing with Pump and Valve manual changes/revisions/justification for an audit.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23283A021>

= **ML23286A112**. DTE's brief response to NRC's Request for info re: LAR, same one as below.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23286A112>

= **ML23286A120**. DTE's response to NRC's request for info regarding DTE's LAR request. Much ado to document what DTE and NRC has already decided – 22 pages worth.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23286A120>

= **ML23289A055**. Report on Fermi 3 changes. "New nuclear plant construction will be the responsibility of DTE Electric Company's Fermi 3 organization, "is the scariest statement in it.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23289A055>

= **ML23293A053**. How to use NRC's Agency-wide Documents Access Management System (ADAMS) Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23293A053>

= **ML23291A143**. Clarification of phone call.

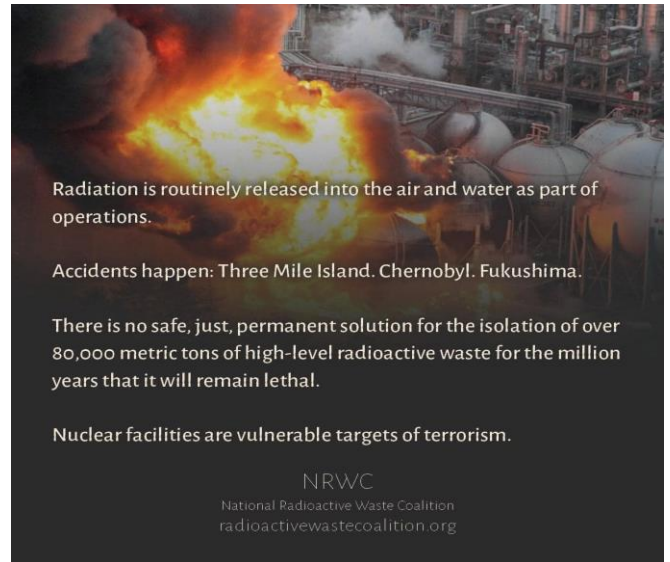
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23291A143>

= **ML23290A153**. Shows one security related violation, not available to the public.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23290A153>

ML23291A358. LER re: cause of shutdown leak.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23291A358>



Monroe Energy Town hall Meeting

Republican representative from the Monroe area held an "energy meeting at the Frenchtown Township Hall on October 20, 2023, and in attendance along with DTE and Chamber of Commerce representatives, were very few members of the public, but included Mark Farris.

There were no handouts documenting the discussion of DTE building four Small Modular Reactors and one full size reactor at the Fermi site. All called nuclear "clean" energy.

Mark Farris spoke and confronted the political schemes to ban Wind and Solar arrays from individuals and private companies.



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