



Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two

(CRAFT) telephone 313-286-3827

Post Office Box 401356, Redford MI 48240

shutdownfermi@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/groups/51956598157696/

<https://shutdownfermi.org>

Oct. 2022 *CRAFT Times* vol. 9 no. 10

Palisades Reactor to Reopen?

Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced that Holtec International, current owner of the reactor, has applied for a Civil Nuclear Credit (CNC) what would allow the reactor to resume operations. Whitmer sent a letter of support offering state money to help finance the reopening.

Consumers Energy built the Palisades reactor and operated it from 1973 – 2007 and continued to buy power from it through this year and sold the reactor to Entergy which had been planning to close it since 2016.

“Keeping Palisades open will keep energy costs low, shore up domestic energy production and increase Michigan’s competitiveness for future economic development,” Whitmer said.

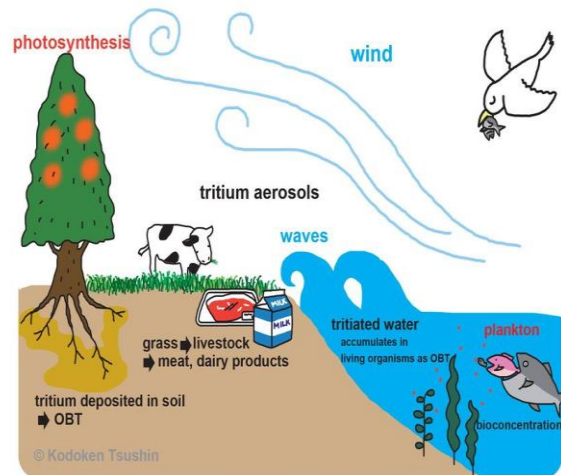
CRAFT is one of dozens of environmental groups that submitted a letter to federal officials asking them to deny Holtec funding from the \$6 billion fund created to revive and promote nuclear energy.

The rules for applying for the CNC funds state reactors must be projected to cease operations because of economic factors and Palisades has already shut down permanently in May. All fuel was removed from the reactor in June of this year.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has never received a request to reopen a reactor after it was shut down and their spokesperson said they would sort it out if they receive one.

Returning Palisades to the grid “would be a major success story” said Nick Culp, Holtec spokesman. “For the time being, our employees at Palisades remain focused on the safe and timely decommissioning of the site.”

“Climate change trumps safety,” said Samuel Miranda, Retired NRC Inspector, regarding the ridiculous re-opening request.



HB 6019 Goes to Full Senate

“Railroaded. The clerk acknowledged comments, then the committee gavelled out; no testimony allowed. All Yeas, no Nays, it’s going to the full Senate,” stated CRAFT co-chair Jim Sherman who attended the Senate Technology Committee hearing on the House Bill to study new nuclear reactors in Michigan and refurbishing dangerous old ones to bring them back online.

And the Senate is happy about it. Their notification states, “Energy: nuclear; feasibility study on building nuclear energy in Michigan.” And the final report reads, “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.”

Unlike federal bills, this one will retain the House Bill number as it goes to the full senate. You can track the bill here: [https://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(q1pnffdbafnmaqxcbsou4ztt\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2022-HB-6019](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(q1pnffdbafnmaqxcbsou4ztt))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2022-HB-6019)



Fermi's NPDES Update Part 3

Fermi Two's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit expires 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.

The permit allows discharges at eight points, sets limits for polluting chemicals but no limits on how hot the discharge water can be. That is something CRAFT will push for in the new permit.

In 2014, EGLE listed Lake Erie as "impaired" because of the toxic algae blooms. Toledo, Ohio gets its drinking water from Lake Erie and in August of 2014, toxic algal blooms shut down their water system for weeks. Monroe and Frenchtown Township also get their water from Lake Erie.

CRAFT believes Fermi 2's and DTE's Monroe Coal Plant's heated discharge are a major cause of the blooms. DTE has stated that the temperature of the discharge water is about 18 degrees Fahrenheit hotter than the intake water.

We will be following EGLE's report and keep you informed. To receive notifications regarding the permit, contact Elaine Wild at wilde2@michigan.gov.

Fermi 1 Meltdown Anniversary

The Fermi 1 nuclear reactor suffered a partial meltdown in 1966 but was not permanently shut down until 1972. It still stands beside Fermi 2 and although the sodium fuel has been removed, radioactive water is still accumulating and is being removed. Fifty-six years and counting.

The fuel assemblies were transported to Idaho National Lab for permanent storage. Fermi 1 was a liquid metal sodium cooled reactor, and sodium ignites – or explodes – on contact with air or water. In 2008, 36 years after the permanent shutdown, the reactor had a radioactive tritium spill and a sodium fire.

Officially, the reactor is in "SAFESTOR" but yearly updates state DTE is planning a new roof to stop the rainwater from depositing more radiation within the reactor which is slated to be totally removed. *(If Fermi 1 is to be totally removed, why would it need a new roof?)*

The Public's Case Against DTE

We The People Michigan, along with the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition produced an in-depth report on DTE and its dirty dealings.

Some of the content explain how DTE is "Greenwashing" to make the company seem like they voluntarily started the programs the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) forced them to do.

The amount of money given to politicians, more to the Republicans than to the Democrats, and the "Dark Money" groups they founded (Michigan Energy First in 2014; Alliance for Michigan Power in 2014; and Michigan Energy Promise in 2019) to support the politicians opposed to lifting the solar net meter cap.

Michigan Energy First (MEF) has given tens of thousands of dollars to community and faith leaders who publicly support DTE positions and hearings. In 2020, MEF gave over \$5 million to over a dozen groups to influence officials and public opinion.

And there is more! Here is the full report. <https://wethepeoplemi.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/REPORT-The-Publics-Case-Against-DTE-20220613.pdf>

FYI – In the News!

= Some Michigan lawmakers grow frustrated about the lack of movement on legislation to provide consumer protections and compensation for extended outages. (WDET)

= "It's like pulling teeth." Ann Arbor planning commissioners express frustration as they try to persuade housing developers to voluntarily

[incorporate features like solar power and electric appliances](#) into new apartment buildings. (MLive)



FYI - In the News Continued

= Seven Midwest states partner to [accelerate the development of hydrogen](#) as a clean energy alternative for vehicles and factories. (Associated Press)

= "Current reliability just isn't adequate." Michigan regulators [order the state's two largest utilities](#) to detail plans for improving electric service reliability. (Energy News Network/Planet Detroit)

= The Michigan attorney general's office is "[more closely examining](#)" DTE Energy's practice of selling customers' debt over nonpayment amid the utility's latest rate increase request. (ProPublica/Outlier Media)

= Some clean energy advocates call on Michigan to [ban the sale of new gasoline-powered cars by 2030](#), five years earlier than a target recently set in California. (RTO Insider, subscription)

= Several environmental groups are [pushing back against plans to reopen the Palisades nuclear power plant](#) in southwest Michigan. (Planet Detroit)

= Methane captured from landfills, livestock waste and wastewater treatment plants could [replace between 8.5% and 22%](#) of Michigan's average natural gas consumption and make an even smaller dent in reducing the state's emissions, according to

a new report prepared for state regulators. (Detroit News)

= The federal government is set to [invest billions of dollars](#) in carbon capture projects despite little success in similar spending over the past decade. (S&P Global)

Another Rate Hike for DTE?

DTE has asked for an additional \$388 million in annual revenue, but an administrative law judge has recommended \$145.7 million, mainly from residential customers. We say, give them a Decrease. You can still make your voice heard!



[Click here to submit a public comment](#) demanding the MPSC say NO to DTE's rate hike request! **Deadline to submit a comment is November 8th.**

DTE Sells Customer Debts

As DTE vies for another rate increase, the state is looking closer at DTE's sale of customer debt to collection agencies.

An investigation by ProPublica and Outlier Media proved DTE had cut service for nonpayment more than 200,000 times during the pandemic and sold off their old customer debts.

DTE ran a profit of \$907 million in 2021, despite only getting pennies for the dollars they sold – which caused some people to get their paychecks garnished.

Three members of Congress, including our representative, Rashida Tlaib, introduced a resolution recognizing access to utility services such as electricity, water, and broadband as a human right. The resolution would prevent the sale of debts but is yet to be passed.

Sept. Fermi Documents Received

= **ML22241A115.** Fermi 1 Annual Report. No changes, the roof is still leaking.

= **ML22235A106.** License Event Report No. 2022-003, Turbine trip due to Mayflies. See page 1

= **Event No. 56054.** Update on 8/17/22 Safety System Inoperability. Cooling fan trouble again.

= **ML22241A062.** NRC accepts DTE's request to revise Fermi 2 Technical specifications to raise the

water level. The NRC states they will complete the review by August 4, 2023.

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

Algal Blooms in Lake Erie



Swimmers at Luna Pier Beach, 30-miles south of Detroit on Lake Erie and across the water from the Fermi 2 nuclear reactor, swim August 18 in water green with algae during an active advisory against “whole-body contact” issued by the Monroe County Health Department. “MCHD continues to recommend that visitors and residents of the lake avoid water-related activities and keep pets from drinking or going in the lake water in the area where a bloom is visible,” said a press release issued the same day by the agency. (Photo by J. Carl Ganter/ Circle of Blue)

Mayflies and Fermi’s Event

In our July 2022 issue, we reported on Fermi’s License Event Report (LER) 55964 which DTE filed saying they didn’t know the cause of Fermi’s automatic shutdown and told a Toledo Blade operator that the cause was “an electrical issue outside the plant caused the main turbine to shut down.”

Last month DTE filed a LER to say the reason for Fermi’s scram was “The generator output fault occurred when a swarm of mayflies caused an arc from a 345kVbus bar to the bottom of the insulator during a hatch.”

This is not the first time the Mayflies have downed Fermi. This report states, “In 2020, Fermi 2 experienced a loss of Division 2 offsite power at the 345kV switchyard due to mayflies...”

After the 2020 event, a Mayfly Infestation Preparation Plan was enacted, but evidently the Mayflies didn’t get the memo.

CRAFT Zoom Public Meeting

This is an invitation to attend a zoom meeting with the CRAFT Steering Committee Team on Thursday October 20th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. We look forward to In-Person meetings, but not yet. Here is the link for the meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6559569802?pwd=ajMvRE5TNmVJaW1iWlRJaV2dnhZdz09>

Zoom in and help brainstorm on convincing DTE to phase out Fermi 2



CRAFT Times

Post Office Box 401356

Redford MI 4824