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EGLE Issues Draft Fermi NPDES

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has issued a draft permit for the Fermi 2 reactor to use and abuse Lake Erie water.

This proposed permit lists phosphorus and dangerous, carcinogenic chemicals Fermi is discharging into Lake Erie, and gives DTE until 2028 to stop discharging PCBs, which are now illegal to discharge.

The permit also sets no limits on thermal pollution, allowing Fermi to continue to heat up Lake Erie and contribute to toxic algae blooms.

CRAFT and other groups are calling for a public hearing, and there is an open commenting period on the new permit until October 28th, 2023.

“We at CRAFT, have been working with the Berkeley, California, and the University of Detroit Mercy environmental law schools and nationwide networks to look at the proposed permit and get some help,” said CRAFT Community Organizer Jesse DeerInWater. “Right now, there is an open commenting period on the new permit until October 21st. “

CRAFT and the UDM will request a public hearing, along with the groups who join us.

Link to the permit

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/602ad496d6914a529eefcf66/t/64f20aa2d44c6546bba3567b/1693584035049/NPDES+Permit++DRAFT+for+Public+Notice_DTE-Fermi+2+Power+Plt.pdf

Link to Fermi Two informational video

<https://youtu.be/MTOCdfNx3hg>

To make a comment to EGLE on the permit:

<https://mienviro.michigan.gov/ncore/external/publicnotice/info/5797946950012781164/comments>

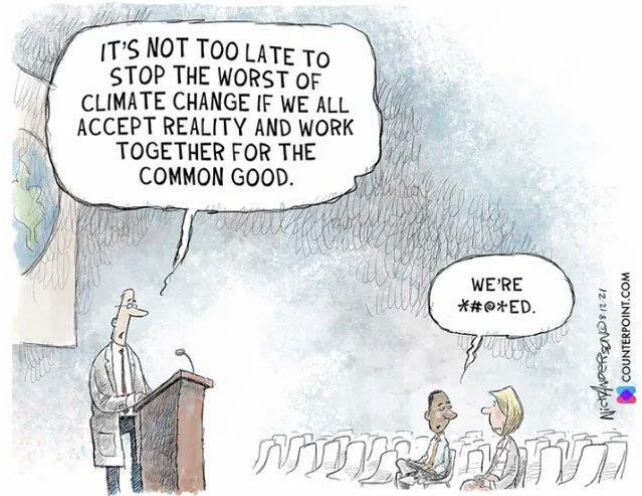
Citizens' Resistance at Fermi Two (CRAFT) telephone 313-286-3827

Post Office Box 401356, Redford MI 48240

shutdownfermi@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/groups/51956598157696/

<https://shutdownfermi.org>



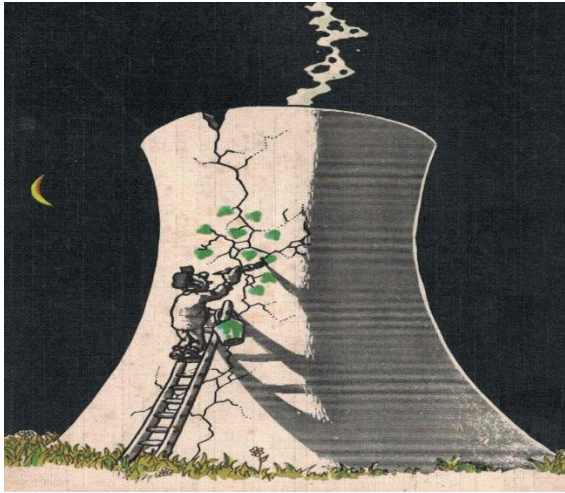
NRC Approves Further Uranium Enrichment at American Centrifuge Plant

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has authorized American Centrifuge Operating in Piketon, Ohio to proceed with its planned demonstration project to produce high-assay low-enriched uranium, known as HALEU, under its contract with the Department of Energy.

The company plans to enrich the uranium up to 20 percent in the isotope U-235, higher than the typical 3-5 percent found in current nuclear reactor fuel.

“The plan is to sell these advanced reactors around the world, and then to fuel them with HALEU,” said Michael Keegan of Don’t Waste Michigan. “Twenty percent puts it 90 percent of the way to being nuclear bomb material. you just can’t give your allies potential proliferation material, you need a cover story.”

The company plans to initiate HALEU production in October and complete Phase 1 in December. The amount of material and higher enrichment level authorized make the American Centrifuge Plant the first Category II fuel facility licensed by the NRC.



Palisades to Restart?

For the first time in history, a closed reactor is in the process of coming back to life, Palisades, a.k.a., the Zombie reactor. The 800-megawatt reactor had once generated 5% of Michigan's power before it shut down and had the fuel removed.

Palisades' current owner, Holtec International, entered into an agreement with Wolverine Power Cooperative who will buy up to two-thirds of the electricity produced. Hoosier Energy will buy the remainder.

Holtec has twice applied for federal money to un-mothball the reactor and the State of Michigan has already chipped in \$150 million and Holtec has asked for another \$150 million from them.

The reactor was closed because it was too dangerous and expensive to run, but those who are happy about this deal look to the lack of carbon emissions and the good paying jobs.

Those people opposed say it's too dangerous, dirty, and expensive from "the cradle (uranium mining) to the grave (nuclear waste disposal)."

There will be an October meeting to discuss a license transfer and the \$1 billion dollar Department of Energy loan Holtec is requesting. Here is the link and directions to register for October 3, 2023 (1-3pm ET) Public Meeting to discuss Holtec Palisades License Transfer at this link:

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/5f75b818-dc40-48a8-9d6a-1aa529598cfc@e8d01475-c3b5-436a-a065-5def4c64f52e>

Nuclear will not help climate change.

Fermi 1's Annual Report

The report states, "During the period, there have been Controlled Area roof leaks and an approximately 5' by 8' hole in the Fuel and the Repair building high roof that resulted in rain-water intrusion into the facility. Funding was approved to perform further investigation of damage. Once extent of condition is complete, strategy for repair will be presented for further funding."

Last year's report (2022) stated that, "The roof area is monitored for new leaks which are repaired as necessary." (*How did a five-foot by eight-foot hole develop in one year?*)

The 2021 report reads identical to the 2022 one, except for the date change, and signatures.

License Event Report Fan D

On July 18, 2023, "Mechanical Draft Cooling Tower (MDCT) Fan "D" was declared inoperable due to a trip of the fan mother while running at high speed," stated DTE's filing to the NRC.

Fermi's Ultimate Heat Sink (UHS) is divided into two, each capable of cooling in case of an accident. The Cooling System has four fans, Division I has Fans A and C. Division II has Fans B and D. "Two MDCT fans above each one-half above each one-half capacity reservoir are required for it to be considered operable."

"Investigation found that the cause of the trip was due to high vibrations caused by either the degraded mounting bolt (one of three) of the gear reducer to the pedestal and/or the degraded bushings on the driveshaft coupling to the gear reducer...the failure is assumed to have occurred at the time of discovery."

"During the 'extent of condition' review, it was discovered that MDCT Fans "A" and "C" pedestals were also degraded and non-conforming, but remained operable, and in need of similar repair. To be proactive, an exigent (emergency) License Amendment Request was submitted to the NRC."

DTE was given seven days each to repair them. Fan B was found to be a bit degraded, and they are going to let it pass so that Division II would have a working fan.

"Following the degraded bushing replacement and removal and regrouting of the gearbox foundation bolts, the MDCT Fan D was declared operable on July 22, 2023."



FYI – Climate Crisis News

- = [Michigan regulators seek penalties for repeat utility outages](#) months over customer complaints. Consumers Energy and DTE Energy could face penalties for frequent and long power outages.
- = DTE Energy begins a pilot project to [bury five miles of power lines](#) in Detroit neighborhoods to improve reliability. (*Detroit Free Press*)
- = Environmental groups call on the federal government to require a [detailed environmental impact study](#) before loaning \$1 billion to reopen a shuttered Michigan nuclear plant along Lake Michigan. (*Michigan Radio*)
- = Michigan lawmakers [debated the proposed 2040 deadline for utilities to go carbon-free](#) last week. Environmentalists argue it's too slow, while business interests and Republican lawmakers worry it's too aggressive. Biomass power generation and carbon-capture technology are some of the [sticking points](#) in the debates over the proposed bills. (Bridge Michigan, MLive)
- = Michigan advocates are pushing state lawmakers to pass legislation that considers [industrial pollution's cumulative impacts](#) on communities, influenced by a 2020 environmental justice law in New Jersey. (*Planet Detroit*)

Fermi 2's License Amendment 225

In August, Fermi received the 224th amendment to their operating license, and in September they received number 225. This amends Fermi's Technical Specifications to say that DTE can have seven days each to repair the degraded pedestals on

Mechanical Draft Cooling Tower (MDCT) Fans A and C. Fan B is degraded, but operable.

See LER on page 2 for Fan D report.

Sept. Fermi Documents Received

- = DTE's Supplemental Info re: Exigent LAR. The letter states it is provided to "address a typographical error." And then it never mentions the error again but discusses fan repairs. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23237B402>
- = **ML23237B419**. DTE response to NRC Request for Info for Exigent LAR. DTE states Fan A and C pedestals need to be repaired while the reactor is online. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23237B419>
- = **ML23244A212**. Fermi 1 Annual Report. See article, page 2. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23244A212>
- = **ML23241B016**. Email from NRC wanting to know why DTE can't fix Fans A and C pedestals while Fermi is in forced shutdown to fix the leak. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23241B016>
- = **ML23242A189**. DTE clarification to the NRC. "DTE stated that surveillances and testing were addressed in NRC's Enclosure 4 Section 6. The correct reference should be Enclosure 4 Section 5." <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23242A189>
- = **ML23243A978**. Inservice Testing Program for the Fourth Tenth Year Inspection. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23243A978>
- = **ML23248A224**. Audit in support strainer Debris LAR. Will take place from September 18, 2023, to December 29, 2023. Will be done electronically. <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23248A224>. See article, page 4.
- = **ML23244A002**. NRC email to DTE stating "The NRC staff expects to complete this review, as requested by you, in one year from the date of this acceptance email, i.e., August 30, 2024."

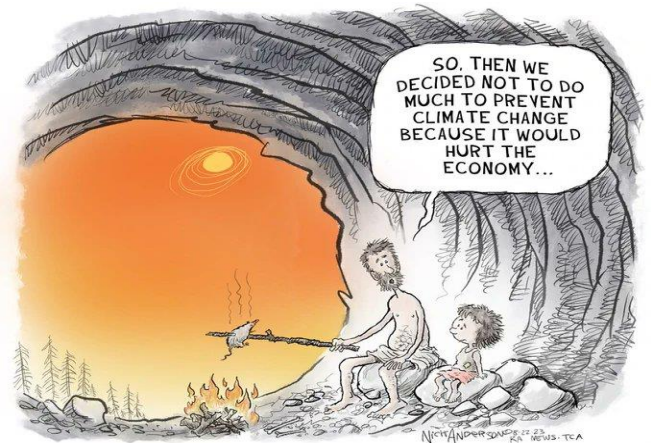
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23244A002>
= **ML23243A885**. Amendment No. 225. Page 3.
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23243A885>
= **ML23254A157**. DTE's additional info for Exigent LAR to change Tech Specs to fix fans.
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23254A157>
= **ML23258A067**. LER No. 2023-002-00, See article, page 2.
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML23258A067>

Lake Erie and Fermi's Casks

After we had gone to press last month, a filing came in that DTE had loaded another spent fuel cement cask at Fermi, bringing the total to 35.

Each cask holds 68 bundles of spent fuel rods that have been in the SFP for at least five years for them to cool down enough to move. Since there are no waste disposal plans, the casks may be sitting on Lake Erie's shore for eternity.

So now Fermi has thirty-five filled casks of deadly forever radioactive waste sitting on a concrete slab named Independent Spent Fuel Storage (ISPS) on Lake Erie's shore.



Fermi's Strainer Performance

DTE submitted a license amendment and exemption request to revise the licensing basis to allow the use of a "risk-informed method of evaluating the effects of loss-of-coolant accident (LOCA) generated debris on long-term core cooling," stated the request.

The NRC Staff has initiated its review by setting an audit "to get a better understanding of how DTE plans to address a risk assessment" of how stopped up the strainers are allowed to be before DTE considers them a risk.

The audit will be from September 18, 2023 thru December 29, 2023.



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Post Office Box 401356
Redford MI 48240-2153