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 (Fermi 2 nuclear reactor & other environmental news)

Build Back Better Act?

The Build Back Better Reconciliation package has uncovered hidden subsidies and loopholes that benefit Dirty Energy, including \$50 billion in subsidies for existing nuclear reactors. (*Twenty-five thousand wind turbines could be built with that!*)

“Anyone who would substitute plutonium for carbon needs to think again,” said the late David Freeman, former head of nuclear agencies who later became anti-nuclear.

“The nuclear industry is notorious for its reimagining,” said Paul Gunter of Beyond Nuclear. “First it was the ‘peaceful atom’, then ‘too cheap to meter,’ and now it’s ‘zero emissions.’ None of that is true.”

All the proposed subsidies (up to \$50 billion) are predicted to go to reactors owned by only eight corporations and located in only 19 counties across eight states.

Gerry Anderson, DTE’s CEO, also head of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), said the industry can take the next major step in transitioning to clean energy future, and “Washington would get that critical next phase off to a faster start with strategic investments and encouragement for fledgling technologies, such as hydrogen power, advanced nuclear, and energy storage as well as electric vehicles.”

EEI was one of the corporate sponsors of National Clean Energy Week which is gearing up for the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November. This year it will be held in Scotland.

Citizens’ Resistance at Fermi Two

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Zero-Emission Credit Act of 2021

In these times of serious climate change, it seems the federal Democratic administration likes nuclear power as much as the Republican one did. That’s too bad; they need their minds changed. To become a law, an issue must pass both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Currently, our federal government officials are working on passing “Zero-Emission Nuclear Power Production Credit Act of 2021.” The bill number in the Senate is S.2291 and H.R.4024 in the House.

“To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a tax credit for production of electricity using nuclear power,” reads the first sentence of the proposed House bill.

Somehow this was included in the administration’s \$4+trillion “American Jobs and Families Plan” which promised to transform our energy system to 100% clean energy by 2035 and create millions of jobs. Then it announced it wanted to include up to \$50 billion for nuclear reactors that produce electricity. (*Say it ain’t so, Joe!*)

Please tell your federal representatives not to include money for nuclear. S.2291 has six co-sponsors and HR.4024 has 20. We need to stop this from becoming law.



Ann Arbor for Public Power?

Ann Arbor for Public Power is a new grassroots group that held a kickoff rally for a campaign to convince Ann Arbor voters to shift support away from DTE and form a public power utility.

“By having a municipal authority, we can democratize power delivery in this town,” said State Sen. Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor, who wishes to see his city move away from DTE which still invests billions in fossil fuel.

DTE objects and vows to spend \$20 million to upgrade Ann Arbor’s power grid.

“We, the people, have no control over DTE,” said State Rep. Yousef Rabhi, D-AA, who feels DTE is a roadblock to a sustainable future. “Right now, no more than 1% of all energy in the DTE service area can be from distributed generation, from solar panels on people’s roofs, and DTE has opposed legislation to lift the cap.”

“We want that cap gone now, because we are at that cap; solar installers are not able to install.”

(We send them positive vibes, because Ann Arbor would be getting all their energy from solar, none from the Fermi 2 reactor.)

State of Texas vs NRC

Abortion isn’t the only issue the Texas State government and the Federal government are bumping heads over. There’s also nuclear waste.

On September 9th, Gov. Abbott (R) signed into law a bill to block a plan to store highly radioactive nuclear waste at a site in West Texas, near the New Mexico border.

Then on September 13th, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued a license to Interim Storage Partners LLC (a joint venture of Waste Control

Specialists and Orano USA) to “receive, possess, transfer and store up to 5,000 metric tons of spent fuel and 231.3 metric tons of waste.”

This is the second time the NRC has issued a license for a nuclear waste storage facility. The first was issued in 2006 and never built.

We hope this one won’t be built either. While we try to stop Fermi 2’s waste from piling up on Lake Erie’s shore, it’s safer there than being shipped to Texas to await final disposal somewhere else after 40 years.

Kildee Opposes Canadian Nuclear

Michigan Congressman Dan Kildee introduced a bipartisan resolution (H.R. 647) opposing Canada’s new plan to build a nuclear waste site in the Great Lakes basin. Many other congresspeople signed on, including several from Michigan.

“People in both the U.S. and Canada depend on the Great Lakes for drinking water, which could be contaminated if there ever was a nuclear waste incident,” said Kildee, who has introduced similar legislation in the last four Congresses.

Good for Kildee and the other supporters. We don’t want Canada to build a nuclear waste dump on the Great Lakes either, we just want our officials to look at a bigger picture and see that Canada needs to stop making its waste - as does the United States.

Michigan already has “dry cask storage” on four nuclear sites: Fermi 2 on Lake Erie, Cook (2 reactors), Palisades, and Big Rock are all on Lake Michigan’s shores. Current law doesn’t allow for casks containing nuclear waste to be shipped.

Any of Canada’s or Michigan’s nuclear reactors could have an “incident” that could devastate the whole region that holds the fresh water.

ABATE Against DTE?

The only entity to intervene in DTE’s renewable cost reconciliation case before the Michigan Public Service Commission is the Association of Businesses Advocating Tariff Equity (ABATE).

ABATE member organizations include Dow Chemical, General Motors, Marathon. Pfizer-Kalamazoo, and Enbridge, among others. *(If these are the only ones opposing another rate increase for DTE, we are in trouble.)*



Fermi 1 Annual Report

The major report is that the roof leaks. “During the period, there have been Controlled Area roof leaks that resulted in minor rainwater intrusion into the Facility. Individual leak repairs were completed during the reporting period,” stated DTE’s filing. “A long-term repair strategy is being examined.”

Why would they repair a roof for long-term when that reactor is supposed to be demolished?

DTE and their Outage Problem

A lot of people have been without power this summer, and although DTE blamed the problem on our state’s “beautiful trees,” experts say DTE has been negligent in tree trimming and aging equipment replacement.

Experts point out that electricity energy standard is to cut branches near lines every five years. DTE cut them at 9 years. They also just trimmed branches within a few feet of lines instead of all that could threaten the lines. Minnesota’s largest utility operates on a three-to-five-year trim.

Statistics show that Michigan sees about three times more outages and it takes about three times longer for DTE to restore electricity than Minnesota.

“I would hope that DTE would start focusing on ensuring that their service is reliable and that we stop seeing the incredible amount of money that they pump into our politics to protect them from having to change,” said Art Reyes who works with We The People, an advocacy group.

Changes to Fermi’s Technical Requirements Manual

Revision 127 of Fermi’s Technical Requirements Manual came in with the changes marked by a line on the right side. However, there is no way to know what the requirement was before that change. For example:

“Samples shall be selected such that each penetration (*inside electrical conduits*) seal is inspected at least once per 20 years.”

Seven inspections, most visual, got changed to 24 months from whatever they were before.

Utopian Power Sells Solar to DNR

A local energy company has signed a deal with Michigan’s Department of Natural Resources to sell energy for seven state parks and offices in southwestern Michigan.

The South Lyon-based Utopian Power project will be developed, financed, and constructed by Michigan companies with an investment of \$2.5 million into the Michigan economy over the next six months.

Utopian Power is a member of Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association; Michigan Community Solar Alliance; and AKSEIA.

Sept. Fermi Documents Received

= **ML21242A506**. Fermi 1 Annual Report.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21242A506>

= **ML21238A353**. Updated NRC Inspection Plan.

= **ML21250A394**. “Material Control and Accounting Program Inspection Report” – it states that the report has security related info and will not be available to the public. It also states no violations above minor were found.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21250A394>

= **ML21251A160**. Changes to Fermi’s Technical Requirements Manual, Vol. 1. See article, page 3.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML21251A160>



DTE Denies Odd Detroit Eruption

DTE built a gas bypass around the site of an unexplained buckle in the road that destroyed a marijuana provisioning center in southwest Detroit.

DTE gas and electric infrastructure was damaged by a resulting water main break. DTE denied charges that a gas explosion caused the road to buckle and said it was caused by water.

“There was no explosion. Water typically doesn’t push the ground up: the ground sinks in,” said Hakim Berry, Detroit’s CEO. “The ground hasn’t shifted. It hasn’t grown any more. It hasn’t even fallen in.”

Excavation of the site will soon begin pulling back levels of concrete in search of the cause.

MPSC Approves DTE Recovery

The Michigan Public Service Commission has approved DTE’s Reconciliation of its 2019 calendar year power supply cost recovery expenses, but disallowed cost the company had not surveyed.

It approved \$145,023 for delivery of natural gas through the Nexus Pipeline, which DTE owns jointly with Enbridge, but disallowed \$2,718,764 that DTE sought for limestone used at the Monroe Coal plant because they hadn’t done inventory since 2009.

The MPSC also disallowed \$439,000 for trona but approved \$3.1 million for coke oven gas and blast furnace gas.

Meanwhile in Ohio

The Ohio governor’s top lobbyist Dan McCarthy resigned saying he needed a break. He has been under fire for his close ties to FirstEnergy which admitted it bribed public officials to achieve a \$1 billion bailout for two nuclear reactors in Ohio.

McCarthy was a lobbyist for FirstEnergy before he joined the governor’s team and helped to bring about what the U.S. Attorney David DeVillers said was “the largest public corruption case in Ohio’s history.”

H.B. 6 still has not been officially withdrawn.



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