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Inflation Reduction Act

It was billed as a solution to climate change by putting \$740 billion flooding into the economy. Of that total, \$369 billion was earmarked for U.S. energy security and fighting climate change.

The recently passed federal Inflation Reduction Act deals with many issues (and compromises?) but it reads like a gift to the nuclear industry in the macro, and DTE in the micro. Here are a few examples.

The bill has \$700 million to produce the uranium fuel in the US so new reactors will not have to buy from other countries, such as Russia where 40 percent of reactor fuel now comes from.

Companies designing and building Small Modular Reactors are offered two new tax credits now available to carbon-free generators like wind and solar now that nuclear is being promoted as carbon-free. And coal is not left out of the bill.

Both of those tax credits include a 10 % bonus if a new reactor is built on the site of closed coal facilities. (*DTE now has closed coal plants.*) The first licensed small modular reactor (SMR) is being advocated for building SMRs on former coal sites.

“Transmission lines are already in place. You have a site, you have a grid connection, and equipment that can remain in use,” said Staffan Qvist, a nuclear consultant in Britain. “You have a workforce that could be retrained. They are talking about this worldwide.”

Existing nuclear reactors will receive tax subsidies and license extensions, and there is \$250 billion in loan guarantees to restart closed facilities.

The amount for nuclear is \$363 billion and other “climate” spending is \$369 billion. And we do not see how this bill has anything to do with Inflation – or reducing it – that is just a catchy title.

Citizens’ Resistance at Fermi Two

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<https://shutdownfermi.org>



MPSC – DTE Rate Hike Meeting

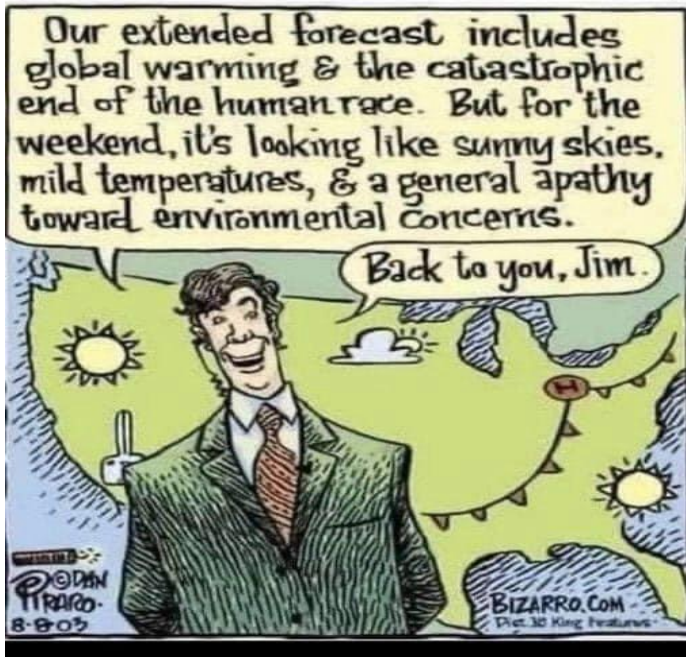
More than a hundred people gathered at Detroit’s Wayne County Community College to comment to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) to reject DTE’s request for another rate increase.

The requested increase would total \$388 million more from residential customers, about an 8.8% increase. Additionally, DTE wants to charge solar customers a fee based on their three highest electricity usage days from the previous year.

Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib and at least five other politicians recommended the MPSC deny DTE’s request.

Most of the speakers were against the increase and Bridget Vial of Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition (MEJC) cited the company’s millions of dollars in profits last year and called for a rate **decrease**. (*Yay Bridget!*)

Check out WeThePeople’s report with [We the People-MI](#), and [Little Sis: The Public’s Case Against DTE Energy](#). We found DTE extracted profits, induced health harms, & destroyed democracy. [Click here to make a public comment.](#)



Fermi's NPDES Update Part 2

Last month's algal bloom is one of the main reasons CRAFT is calling for Michigan Dept of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to set thermal limits on the discharge water Fermi returns to the lake after cooling the reactor.

EGLE could set limits on the reactor's thermal discharge under the Clean Water Act to comply with Michigan's water quality standards. Although Lake Erie is listed as impaired for water quality, there is no plan to place restrictions on Fermi's discharge.

It is not until EGLE issues a public notice that the comment period becomes a way to advocate for change. The comment period has not yet begun so we are giving ample time for individuals and groups to prepare their comments and issues.

The Clean Water Act prohibits discharging of pollutants including thermal unless they are permitted to do so, and Fermi is allowed under their NPDES, which was first issued in 2009 - not EGLE then, it was Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) - and is to be renewed every five years. Although the last permit expired in 2014, it was not reissued until 2018.

If you want to receive notifications regarding the Fermi permit renewal, contact Elaine Wild at wilde2@michigan.gov.

Annual Radioactive Release Report

Although this report was issued in May, we somehow missed it until now. The report is 690 pages and is quite redundant. Here is a sample of the filing.

"To summarize, aquatic monitoring results for 2021 of water, sediment, and fish showed only naturally occurring radioactivity and radioactivity associated with fallout from past atmospheric nuclear weapons testing and were consistent with levels measured prior to the operation of Fermi 2. In conclusion, no radioactivity attributable to activities at Fermi 2 was detected greater than the Minimum Daily Count in any aquatic sample during 2021 and no adverse long-term trends are seen in the aquatic monitoring data."

All 690 pages assure that Fermi is not contaminating anything. We would rather see that reported by someone other than DTE, even if dangers from Fermi's everyday operations are included.

"The release of radioactive gaseous effluents involves pathways such as external whole-body exposure, deposition of radioactive materials on plants, deposition on soil, inhalation and ingestion by animals raised for human consumption, and inhalation by humans. The release of radioactive material in liquid effluents involves pathways such as drinking water and fish consumption."

Inservice Inspection Summary

In the Document Received column, this document is label Refueling Outage 21 Activity Report Attachment dealing with "Items with Flaws." There are several listed, along with "indications were initially recorded as unacceptable...were shown to be acceptable," but what needs to be shared follows.

"Technical Evaluation accepted the corrosion and degraded coatings on the Torus Earthquake Tie for continued service."

Fermi's License Event No. 56054

On August 17th, Fermi's "Mechanical Draft Cooling Tower fans were declared inoperable due to failure of the over speed fan brake inverter."

"...could have prevented the fulfillment of the safety function needed to mitigate the consequences of an accident."



New NRC Violations at Fermi

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) inspectors completed an Integrated Inspection Report on June 30, 2022, and issued Fermi two violations. One was for a 12-foot ladder, unsecured and untagged, leaned up against safety switches.

And the other was for “a manual fire pull station was repeatedly blocked with a tool cart...” This, despite, “ten (Corrective Action Resolution Document) CARDS had been written documenting fire protection equipment being blocked.”

The report states that Fermi was at one hundred percent power “until June 24, 2022, when the plant scrambled due to an electrical perturbation on the 345kV main generator disconnect mat.” Workers made repairs and Fermi returned to 100 percent power on June 26th.

FYI – In the News!

= Through various permitting decisions, state agencies would [ultimately be left to decide](#) how much and how quickly to reduce emissions under the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act. (*HuffPost*)

= Four of the country’s 10 most-polluting power plants are [located in the Midwest](#), representing large outliers in a power system that is shifting to natural gas and renewables. (*E&E News*)

= Environmental groups sue the U.S. EPA to [close a major loophole](#) that has left tons of coal ash

unregulated at almost 300 sites on the Great Lakes and coast to coast. (*Energy News Network/Chicago Investigative Project*)

= Michigan utilities [outline plans](#) with state regulators for how they could spend federal infrastructure funding, including on rural grid improvements and electric vehicle infrastructure. (*Daily Energy Insider*)

= The USDA will [invest \\$121 million](#) into critical infrastructure to address climate change in rural U.S. communities, including 13 projects in Michigan. (*Michigan Farm News*)

= More than [400,000 utility customers](#) in Indiana and Michigan lost power on Monday as severe storms moved through the region. (*WTHR*)

Algal Bloom in Lake Erie

The Monroe County Health Department lifted the “whole-body” contact advisory regarding last month’s algal bloom at Sterling State Park stating, “Sample results from testing on 8/16/22 indicate the levels of cyanobacteria have dropped below the recommended levels warranting the advisory,” read their press release.

The advisory remains in place for Luna Pier Beach, across from Fermi.

Healing Our Waters (HOW)

We are passing this on behalf of the HOW Coalition partners Great Lakes Ecoregion Network (GLEN), which will be hosting a series of meetings to gather community input about the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. GLEN will then be sharing this information with the International Joint Commission. The Lake Erie watershed includes St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair & Detroit River. Tuesday September 6 Registration Link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87434534052?pwd=dGV3aXpKRvF1Lzd2V0RrZm9abWpXUT09>

August Fermi Documents Received

= **ML22119A115**. Annual Radioactive Effluent Release Report. See article page 2.

<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22119A115>

= **ML22216A151**. Application to Revise Technical <https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22216A151>

= **ML22214B341**. Integrated Inspection Report.
See article, page 1.
= **ML22220A212**. Inservice Inspection Summary.
See article, page 2.
<https://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber=ML22220A212>
= **Event No. 56054**. Safety System Inoperability.
= **ML22237A241**. Schedule for Fermi 2 upcoming inspections.



CRAFT Zoom Public Meeting

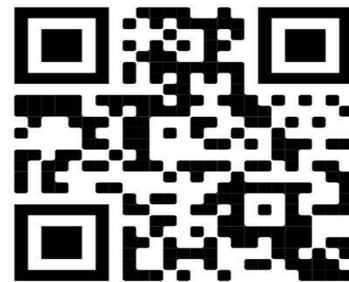
This is an invitation to attend a zoom meeting with the CRAFT Steering Committee Team on Thursday September 15th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. We look forward to In-Person meetings, but not yet. Here is the link for the meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6559569802?pwd=ajMvRE5TNmVJaW1iWIRJalV2dnhZdz09>

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

PUBLIC POWER TO THE PEOPLE

SEPT. 25, 2022 2-5PM
@ LIBERTY PLAZA

Join us to learn how you can fight for 100% renewable energy, by the people, for the people!
Free Ice Cream- Live Music - Local Speakers



annarborpublicpower.org



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