

## Fermi3CEM Resource

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**Subject:** Docket ID NRC20080566, DTE Fermi 3 Henry (Hal) Newnan  
**Attachments:** NRC FERMI 3 DEIS HN 12-15-11.docx  
**Importance:** High

To: [Fermi3.coleis@nrc.gov](mailto:Fermi3.coleis@nrc.gov)

Docket ID: NRC-2008-0566

Attached please find the comments which I am submitting.

In addition, the draft EIS can be accessed online at the NRC's Fermi Unit 3 specific Web page at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/fermi.html>.

<http://www.regulations.gov>

The NRC also will take written comments on the environmental impact statement through Jan. 11, 2012 by submitting them through the federal rulemaking Web site at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) using Docket ID NRC-2008-0566 or by e-mail at [Fermi3.COLEIS@nrc.gov](mailto:Fermi3.COLEIS@nrc.gov) or by regular mail addressed to Chief, Rulemaking, Directives and Editing Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mainstop TWB-05-B01M, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C., 20555-0001.

Happy Holidays,

Hal Newnan

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Sunday, December 18, 2011

Regarding: DTE's Fermi 3 Docket ID NRC20080566

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Draft Comments Re: NUREG 2105

MY Comments.

My name is Henry Newnan, I am: an intervener; as a school board trustee an elected official; I am a ratepayer; and I am the Chair of the SE MI Group of the Sierra Club. I pay DTE's Green Currents rates for Renewable Energy. The amount of money DTE gives away to "green" efforts is a very small fraction of its Marketing Budget. I **strongly object** to the NRC's licensing of FERMI 3 to DTE.

My reasons include:

1.) Every nuclear power plant is a catastrophe even before it melts down. As a school board member I am shocked at the lack of the precautionary principle being used here.

2.) However unlikely, **the possibility of a major meltdown at a plant in the United States can't be dismissed**. And yet Gregory B. Jaczko, the chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, [told Bloomberg last week](#) that there would be enough time for millions of people in the region to get away "because nuclear accidents do develop slowly, they do develop over time, and we saw that at Fukushima."

3.) But even if that were true, many might never be able to return. Some **160,000 Japanese are still displaced** because the radioactive contamination — in an area far less populated and less dense than the Detroit area — was so intense and far-reaching. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's cost-benefit analyses for Indian Point and other nuclear plants in the United States do not factor in these possibilities. **The consequences of land contamination should be weighed**

**in any decision to license, or re-license reactors.**

4.) In the Christian Science Monitor article, "After Oil How We'll Live" page 25 of October 10, 2011, we read, "Choices made now about the coming energy transition will have a global effect; on page 27 they show a City Block of Solar. All the articles on U.S. and World energy policy in this issue are relevant background information for this discussion.

REnewable energy and Energy Efficiency would provide for our future power requirements in a much safer way, at a lower price; and every effort should be made to put those into operation before any new nuclear power plant is ever even considered much less licensed.

5.) The biggest thing is that **the cautionary principle needs to be applied** to all the considerations that members of the nuclear free great lakes coalition have brought up, even though those contentions have almost all been already rejected by the NRC.

6.) So I find myself thinking that **DTE and the NRC are in fact not listening to the public, but rather rationalizing decisions that merely maximize industry profits at great risk to the public (financial/health etc.),** despite the mission statements of the NRC.

7.) Frank Zaski's comments sent in on Dec. 14, 2011, per the NRC (68 FR 55910) refer to his well-researched statement that "the need for power must be addressed in connection with new power plant construction..." What it comes down to is that **there is no need in Michigan for the power from these plants, and therefore the ratepayers need to be free of paying for this unnecessary plant.**

8.) **The response, by the NRC at the Dec. 15, 2011 hearing in Monroe, MI, to Frank Zaski's comments were extremely lame,** much in keeping with what we have seen from the NRC throughout these proceedings.

9.) **Rubber stamping the license for DTE seems to be what the NRC is all about;** and that is to be expected from a quasi-governmental regulatory agency that has been taken over by the industry it is supposed to regulate.

10.) One of the contentions that has already been down-played is that renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts would make much better sense than licensing this unneeded, stupidly expensive and hideously dangerous proposed nuclear fuel fed plant.

11.) And, did I mention that **nuclear fuel is NOT a renewable energy source?** In the book, "**The Weather Makers**" by Tim Flannery (subtitled, "The History and Future Impact of Climate Change) **we find strong reasons to not consider nuclear energy to be a suitable response to climate change, OR, our countries long-term energy needs.** A full build-out of nuclear power plants would result in running out of fuel in a few decades. Leaving us with lots of long-term liabilities and

**civilization would still need to turn to energy efficiency and renewable energy, 12.) though it would probably be too late. 13.) Naturally with resources running out worldwide, and our facing increasing competition** from countries like China and India **we can only expect worse cost overruns** than ever before.

13.) Once again, **how dare you subject our ratepayers and world citizens to the consequences of licensing this plant?** What a huge blunder.

14.) The cost of building Fermi 3 would financially take-off-the-table more favorable employment and environmental grand scale renewable energy options.

15.) Apparently **consideration** of this has been **taken-off-the-table by the NRC based on the opinions of the very utility operators who would benefit more from public subsidies for nuclear power, subsidies that are very likely to mushroom with cost over runs as many nuclear power plants have done while being built. This is a very bad scenario for the taxpayers** who would have to pay for it; but also for the future of all mankind as this kind of economic and energy travesty is multiplied across the country and the planet. **We need to make better resource decisions than this.**

16.) .012 consumption of the entire Lake Erie lake-volume is a lot of water. And the threat by building and operating Fermi 3 of radioactively contaminating the waters of the Great Lakes during any one of numerous disaster scenarios is **high at a time when drinkable water is getting more and more scarce across our country** and world.

17.) **Risking this is so unethical as to be criminal.** Any citizens should be asking themselves, "How dare they?" How dare you?

18.) My understanding is that the NRC is re-licensing any plant nationwide for continued operation; and that this involves **refurbishment**. If a plant is to be **decommissioned** it also has **similar problems** to the ones being refurbished, that is, **what to do with the so-called "low-level" wastes that the nuclear industry wants to throw off into the public sphere as "Free Release."** One form of "Free Release" that we are seeing today is the **incineration** of nuclear waste in Tennessee, and probably soon in Ohio.

To my understanding, this licensing for Fermi 3 in no way considers the spread of these radionuclides into the larger, and unregulated sphere. **Cleaning up after yourselves should be well thought out and paid for before licensing**, rather than afterward, as you currently are planning to do. Where is your plan to do these things and pay for them? You don't have one, you only have a plan to have a plan, right?

19.) **How dare the county commissioner inflict the wastes from this plant on all future generations, school children and elders included? May all the names supporting this short sighted licensing go down in infamy.**

20.) It looks like the NRC and Nuclear industry have little ability or interest in storing nuclear waste high middle or low level. What do you say to that? **The best thing to do would be to of course not make it in the first place.** But these wastes, rather than energy, are the main products of this industry. Where is the safety, and for how long, and at what cost, in protecting these wastes from getting out into the public? You don't even have a plan to have a plan.

21.) I refer you to the Macomb Daily article, Panel: Nuke chief damages agency, page 51 Saturday, December 10, 2011, which **slams NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko** for his decision to shut down the technical review of a proposed nuclear waste dump at Yucca mountain in Nevada. **Jaczko is reported to have said earlier this week that U.S. nuclear plan operators have become complacent.** This is naturally bad news for people living in the vicinity of Fermi 2, which if it melted down would be a worse catastrophe than any single of the same design plants of Fukushima. DTE and the NRC are clearly complacent in the planning and licensing of FERMI 3. Stop! Don't Do it.

22.) My understanding is that there is no consideration in the FERMI 3 DEIS of the events around the Fukushima melt downs we are now supposed to comment on. Yet, the planned site for the construction for Fermi 3 is on the same property side by side with Fermi 2, and partially covering over the only partially decommissioned site of Fermi 1 which had a "partial" melt down. **An eventual melt down at Fermi 3 would have a multiplied effect by proximity to the huge amount of "spent" fuel onsite at Fermi 2;** clearly that is not in the interest of the population or the environment on which it depends. It is a very bad idea to locate Fermi 3 in such a place, even worse that it is on one of our greatest bodies of fresh water that we, and future generations, need much more for other purposes. How can you justify that?

23.) It is also worth noting that transportation of nuclear wastes puts the public at risk. There are always transportation "accidents" and dangers to everyone and every community the radwaste hazmat materials go near or through. How are you going to answer the health and cost concerns of all this coming and going? There isn't even anywhere that will take it. If you can't answer these questions you can't build the plant.

So, I am absolutely opposed for many reasons to the licensing of Fermi 3 to DTE; and so are the SEMG of the Sierra Club, The Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club, and the National Sierra Club through its anti-nuclear policies.

Sincerely,

Hal Newnan

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