

SENT VIA E-MAIL

October 25, 2013

Administrative Judge Ronald M. Spritzer
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, Mail Stop T-3F23
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

RE: Public comments on the Detroit Edison's (DTE) proposed new Fermi 3 atomic reactor targeted at the Lake Erie shoreline of Monroe County, Michigan, to be entered into the record of the Atomic Safety Licensing Board Hearings being held October 29 through November 1, 2013.

Honorable Judge Spritzer:

I do not envy the position that you find yourself in as you, and other members of this panel, consider issues and decisions that will affect our planet and the quality of life for many future generations.

I was born and raised on the shores of Lake Michigan in Berrien County. I hold dear and value the responsibility of the citizens surrounded by the Great Lakes—the greatest freshwater inland lake system in the world—to protect and ensure that these waters continue to provide a quality resource.

As stewards of the Great Lakes and this planet, we have a very important role to protect our valuable resources and ensure that they can be enjoyed by many future generations while working to sustain the habitats that all of our lives depend upon.

Numerous reasons were previously presented and entered into court records as to why this proposed DTE atomic reactor plant should not move forward; therefore, I am not going to rehash those here but will confirm that I have read and support all of the opposition arguments to this atomic reactor plant.

The recent focus in the United States appears to be to build toxic facilities in the name of greed rather than how those facilities will benefit the majority of the people for the greater good and the greater safe environmental impact. Creating toxic waste of any kind and quantity should have never been allowed along the shores of the Great Lakes (or anywhere else) in the first place, but toxic nuclear waste generation definitely should not be allowed to continue. One of the most significant issues with these plants is that there are no safe and long-term toxic nuclear waste storage solutions. However, there are cleaner, safer, and more viable options for energy generation today that do not endanger the Great Lakes with toxic nuclear waste.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is repeatedly attempting to assure the public that these plants are safe, but those same members of the public know those assurances are not true. They know that the NRC does not have a crystal ball that can foresee whether an irrevocable accident will happen at one of these plants on the Great Lakes shores. They have seen the failures at other nuclear plants. They know about the tritium leaks into Lake Michigan along with other dangerous incidents that have occurred at Entergy's Palisades Nuclear Power Plant as the aging plant continues to deteriorate. They have seen the surmounting, ongoing damage to the world that is occurring as a result of the catastrophes at Chernobyl and Fukushima Daiichi.

Why would this board consider allowing such a monumental potential threat to our environment? Now is the time for you to conclude and rule that our country needs to explore other options, pursue safer and cleaner forms of energy production and stop playing Russian roulette as some would gamble with this great water resource. All it takes is one major unforeseen catastrophic accident at this proposed plant or any of the others along the Great Lakes' shores to destroy this resource for untold generations to come.

In the greater scheme of things, the circle of life relies on the survival of all species and their habitats. That which harms and/or destroys the habitat of one species will inevitably harm and destroy others. It was disturbing to read that Detroit Edison has so little regard for the wetlands on the Lake Erie shore that they continue to pursue this project. Lori G. Sargent, Endangered Species Specialist, Wildlife Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources wrote on October 27, 2011, regarding the concerns for threatened and endangered species at the site in question: "The construction of the new nuclear power plant at this site will most definitely harm a portion of the population of Eastern fox snakes (*Pantherophis gloydi*) that is known to reside there and its habitat. The plan that was presented will help to minimize the harm." However, implied in her statement is that this construction will continue to harm this endangered species in its natural habitat. She also wrote in the same report that "An endangered species permit is required if activities will harm the species that are present, including transplanting them to another location." Outside of the greed of this nuclear electric plant project, why would anyone deem it acceptable to move a threatened and endangered species out of its natural environment to an area that may not protect the continuance and thriving of that species for the future? And indirectly, what can be concluded regarding the value Detroit Edison places on the impact to the human habitat in the area?

The time has arrived for those in power and those of us who hold the stewardship of this planet and the Great Lakes in our hands to re-evaluate the best course of action for the benefit of our children and all of the future generations. We need to re-evaluate whether the greed that seems to be controlling decision makers today should be replaced with a greater feeling of

responsibility to stop any project or development that threatens the continuation of a species and the health of their natural habitat.

It is my hope that this panel takes a long, hard look at this project and rules to stop the insanity by not allowing it to continue. There is no good reason to generate additional toxic nuclear waste that cannot be safely stored, creates a potential catastrophic accident for the Great Lakes, and will be with future generations for thousands of years to come!

Respectfully,

Bette Pierman
Michigan Safe Energy Future (MSEF)—South Haven Chapter
PO Box 221
South Haven, MI 49090

Cc:
Office of the Secretary, Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20444-0001

Senator Debbie Stabenow
Senator Carl Levin
Representative Fred Upton