

## Fermi3CEm Resource

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**From:** Patricia A Marida [marida@wideopenwest.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 04, 2012 9:13 PM  
**To:** Fermi3COLEIS Resource  
**Attachments:** Nuclear Issues Committee to NRC on Fermi 3 DEIS 12-11.docx

These comments are in addition to those given at the public meeting on 12-15-11.

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*"The only nuclear reactor we need is 93 million miles away."*

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Nuclear Issues Committee  
Ohio Sierra Club  
131 North High Street Suite 605  
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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
**Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Combined License (COL) for Enrico Fermi Unit 3**  
NUREG-2105

The Nuclear Issues Committee of the Ohio Sierra Club is astonished by the continuing push for new nuclear power in the light of the ongoing tragedy at Fukushima, Japan. Reports this week are saying that there is a danger of the now-melted fuel cores eating through the cement floor of the reactor buildings, reaching water and causing monumental explosions. Photos reveal that the outside wall of Reactor Building 4 has collapsed, exposing the spent fuel pools to danger of rupture from the slightest future earthquake. The buildings are so radiologically hot that humans cannot enter, rendering what is happening there to guesses based on radionuclides being released.

We submit that the very long-term environmental impact of any nuclear reactor is difficult to measure. The dangers and impacts of high-level waste after a thousand or ten thousand years has passed are outside the scope of understanding of our society, let alone the DEIS. An energy technology that could render large parts of the planet uninhabitable is immoral.

While accounting for the environmental impact of constructing a Fermi 3 reactor at this location is of critical concern, there is a certain irony in this exercise, since wherever nuclear is located, grave threats to the future of the area are at hand. Within the scope of the DEIS, the ESBWR will add to the thermal, chemical and radioactive burden in Lake Erie, as well as surrounding communities. In 2011 the largest-ever blue-green algae outbreak blanketed western Lake Erie. The DEIS does not sufficiently address the seriousness of this potential problem. Planned and unplanned radiological releases regularly occur at all reactors. These things are certainties. The DEIS allows us to bury our heads in the sand when it comes to the question of radiological catastrophe. We are here to testify that the No Build option is the only one that is environmentally sound.

Enter a new and untried category of reactor. The name Economically Simplified Boiling Water Reactor (ESBWR) should cause reasonable people to pause. It actually tells the public that simplifying the economics is the major concern. Not safety or waste. The technology of renewables, solar, wind, and energy storage is improving every year, and supports new entrepreneurs. The cost is going down. With nuclear, the cost continues to climb, so much so that the industry is unwilling to financially guarantee any estimates. Though supposedly economically simplified, this new reactor carries a hefty price tag, \$12 + billion and rising. Other U.S. utilities have rejected the "Economically Simplified" design.

We request that the DEIS revisit the concept of "base load". Base load favors and is defined by large, centralized energy sources. Base load discounts decentralized sources such as rooftop solar and small wind. Base load ignores efficiency, which is the cheapest of all energy sources. Without changing the way energy sources are tabulated, it is impossible for the NRC to accurately calculate future energy generation capacity.

The nuclear industry has been subsidized by the public throughout most of its long and polluting chain. This year the Union of Concerned Scientists released a report *Nuclear Power Subsidies: The Gift that Keeps on Taking*. This report shows that in some cases subsidies were greater than the value of the electricity produced.

The costs are born by the public, but the profits go to private interests. With this peculiar financial arrangement, we can hardly expect less than an industry push for Fermi 3. Public relations firms are hired, exaggerated numbers of jobs are cited, and donations are made to political campaigns and charities in the local community.

Even so, polls show that the majority of Americans favor renewables over nuclear. The 1% is attempting to manipulate the 99%. The 99% want something more than grooming ourselves to work for the 1%.

Studies have shown that communities who have retained excellent environmental quality are the places where the economy is most vibrant. These are the places people want to live, particularly young professionals and entrepreneurs.

Nuclear power is bringing us a security state. No guards are needed for solar panels and windmills. There is an elephant in the room. It is nuclear tyranny.

Submitted by Patricia A. Marida, chair  
Ohio Sierra Club Nuclear Issues Committee