

## Fermi3CEM Resource

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**From:** Tiffany Hartung [tiffany.hartung@sierraclub.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 22, 2011 12:24 PM  
**To:** Fermi3COLEIS Resource  
**Subject:** Comments on Docket ID:NRC-2008-0566

December 23, 2011

Chief, Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch

Mail Stop: TWB-05-B01M

U.S. NRC

Washington, DC 20555-0001

RE: DTE's Fermi 3 Docket ID NRC20080566

NRC,

Please accept my letter as comments on the proposed DTE Fermi 3 application Docket ID NRC20080566. The NRC should deny the DTE Fermi 3 license for the following reasons:

Fermi 3 is unneeded-

Michigan's electric demand is declining. Sales forecasts used in DTE's Fermi 3 application are now very dated and misleading. DTE's current forecast indicates an electric sales decline thru 2020. Michigan's poor economy and population loss combined with the energy efficiency and renewable energy mandates are reducing electric demand. There is considerable surplus electric generating capacity in the Midwest market. CMS has announced plans to mothball 7 existing coal burning units and dropped plans for a new 830MW coal-fired power plant. DTE doesn't need an additional, large generation plant in it's fleet and Michigan doesn't need the energy it would generate.

Fermi 3 will make DTE's electric rates unaffordable-

The high cost of Fermi 3 will be passed onto ratepayers. DTE already has a large uncollectible expense and the rate impact of Fermi 3 will make it more difficult for ratepayers to afford their electric bills and will increase DTE's uncollectible rate.

### Nuclear energy is too risking-

There are no safe, sound solutions for the forever deadly radioactive wastes that Fermi 3 would generate. Michigan's four nuclear plants have created over 1,600 tons of highly radioactive waste, which is currently being stored in huge pools or dry cement casks along the shores of the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes hold one fifth of the world's fresh surface water supply and currently provide drinking water to over 42 million people. It is critical that we protect them. There is no central nuclear waste storage facility in the US at present. Transporting nuclear waste to such a facility on public roads and rails that would take them through hundreds of communities would create an additional risk.

DTE's has a bad track record as a nuclear operator. Both Fermi 1 and 2 have had never close calls in the past. It's too high a risk when there are more viable alternatives.

### Clean energy and energy efficiency are better-

The most cost-effective and job-creating source of energy available to Michigan is through energy efficiency programs that help ratepayers reduce energy waste. Weatherizing homes and businesses, upgrading appliances, and modernizing lighting, heating and cooling systems could produce as much as 5,000 MW of power in Michigan.

Solar and wind power are faster to build and install; either can be ready in months, rather than years. The cost of clean energy in Michigan is cheaper than new coal and nuclear plants. DTE will be purchasing 120 MW from a wind farm in Tuscola, Bay and Saginaw counties for \$60.05 per Megawatt Hour, making it one of the best rates in the US and best in Michigan for a wind energy project and significantly cheaper than a new nuclear plant. It is also creating much needed Michigan jobs and generating income for local farmers and local governments. Consumers Energy has lowered costs for customers because renewable energy costs were lower than they expected.

DTE should instead invest in cleaner, cheaper energy efficiency and clean energy that is safe and will keep electric rates low.

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