

High-Level Radioactive Waste at Fermi 2 . Danger to Life and Civil Liberties

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Monroe, MI –This week environmental and energy watchdog organization Beyond Nuclear and Membership filed Site Specific Interventions to protect the Great Lakes from High Level Radioactive Waste at the Fermi Complex.

Interveners contend:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has violated the Administrative Procedures Act through improper notification of the public with regards to modifications of the Fermi 2 license as it pertains to storage of high level nuclear waste on the shores of Lake Erie. Site Specific concerns have been raised by the Interveners which provide an "Opportunity for Hearing", but the public was not properly notified.

"The level of shenanigans that Detroit Edison and the Regulator will go to in order to lock the public out of any meaningful discourse is appalling" stated Monroe resident Michael Keegan.

Keegan elaborated that "Lake Erie is the drinking water supply for millions downstream in the US and Canada and is being placed in jeopardy. The shallow western basin of Lake Erie is the most biologically productive and fragile part of the Great Lakes. But because of myopic planning by the Detroit Edison Company (DTE), driven by greed, this is precisely where this high-level radioactive waste would be stored."

Interveners contend that both Detroit Edison Company (DTE) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) must consider alternatives to the current Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation general license at Fermi 2. These alternatives must address needed security upgrades and their ramifications, as well as societal costs, including civil liberties. Interveners contend that a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) encompassing the safety, security, and environmental impacts of the Fermi 2 dry cask storage installation should be required. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations allow for up to 140 years of on site storage to be considered "temporary". (Initial 20 year license + 5 renewals of 20 years + 20 year cool off period = 140 years)

Kevin Kamps, nuclear waste specialist for Beyond Nuclear stated "The siting of one of the most lethal toxins known to humankind on the shores of Lake Erie for up to 140 years warrants a full Environmental Impact Statement, not to do so constitutes criminal negligence and reckless endangerment, but that is precisely what is being rubber-stamped."

Interveners contend that hardened on-site storage should be required as an interim measure to adequately protect public health, safety, and security, as well as the environment. Because of the shared border and waterways with Canada heighten potential exists of a Cigarette or other

boat to traverse these waters and initiate a terrorist action. Thus, this high level nuclear waste must be fortified and bunkered.

Intervenors contend that a wet well, or waste storage, transfer, and handling pool, should be required at ground level on the site, in order to allow for future re-packaging of waste storage containers as their integrity breaks down over time, as well as to serve as an emergency storage and handling location in the event of problems with dry storage casks. The "spent" nuclear fuel pool at Fermi is on the 5th floor. Once the nuclear waste is brought to ground level, there is no going back up if there is a breach of a Dry Cask basket / canister, thus it is necessary to have a wet well at ground level.

Regarding structural integrity breakdowns, Intervenors demand that an independent quality assurance inspection on the design and manufacture of Holtec International high-level radioactive waste storage/transport containers be required before their use at Fermi.

Sketch of Holtec Cask proposed at Fermi Complex

