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**CITIZENS ENVIRONMENT ALLIANCE**  
of southwestern Ontario

**BEYOND NUCLEAR  
CITIZENS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION  
CITIZENS ENVIRONMENT ALLIANCE OF SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO  
DON'T WASTE MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB**

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**Environmental Coalition Challenges New Reactor at Fermi Complex**

**Groups Cite Clean Alternatives to Radioactive Risks to Lake Erie**

Monroe, Michigan – A bi-national environmental coalition comprised of Beyond Nuclear, Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination, Citizens Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario, Don't Waste Michigan, and the Michigan Chapter of the Sierra Club has defended its legal contentions against Detroit Edison's proposed new Fermi 3 atomic reactor targeted at Newport, Michigan. Its April 10th filing rebutted challenges by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Staff as well as Detroit Edison, which sought to largely or entirely disqualify the coalition's concerns from further consideration.

In its filing, the coalition re-asserted its objections to Fermi 3's radioactive, toxic, and thermal impacts on Lake Erie's vulnerable western basin. It cited the cumulative damage already occurring in the Great Lakes due to the presence of 33 operating atomic reactors, and dozens of additional coal fired power plants. These include Detroit Edison's Trenton Channel Coal Plant, Fermi 2 atomic reactor, and Monroe Coal Power Plant, one of the largest in North America; Consumers Energy's Whiting Coal Plant; as well as First Energy's Bay Shore Coal Plant and Davis-Besse atomic reactor. In addition to Ontario's Nanticoke Generating Station, reportedly the largest coal burner in North America, two proposed new atomic reactors at Nanticoke would also discharge into Lake Erie, although not on western basin.

"Efficiency and renewables, especially wind power, are whipping nuclear power in the marketplace," said Terry Lodge, the coalition's Toledo-based legal counsel. "Toledo hosts national leaders in solar energy, another clean, safe, and increasingly affordable alternative to dirty, dangerous, and astronomically expensive atomic reactors," he added.

"Fermi 3 would represent yet another assault the Great Lakes," said Michael Keegan of Don't Waste Michigan. "Fermi 2 has nowhere to get rid of its forever deadly radioactive wastes, and now Detroit Edison wants to make more for the next sixty years at yet another reactor. This is environmentally, economically and morally bankrupt," he added.

"The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has warned that construction of Fermi 3 could jeopardize habitat and existence of the Eastern Fox Snake in Southeast Michigan" said Kay Cumbow, speaking for Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination. "This species, threatened in Michigan and also at risk in Ohio and Canada, was sighted twice on the Fermi site in 2008. Another reactor at this site would put this rare species further at risk of extermination," she added.

Additionally, in comments to the NRC, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources identified another six endangered species that the construction of Fermi 3 could jeopardize.

"Fermi 3 might make electricity for sixty years, but it would also make a mountain of forever deadly radioactive waste," said Kevin Kamps of Beyond Nuclear, a national watchdog group in Takoma Park, Maryland. "Fermi 3's radioactive and toxic discharges would endanger Lake Erie, its productive fisheries, area aquifers, and the regional drinking water supply," he added.

"The only way Detroit Edison can finance Fermi 3 is to transfer many billions of dollars of financial risk onto the back of the American taxpayer," said Ed McArdle of the Sierra Club. "Wind power and energy efficiency deserve investment, not dirty and dangerous atomic reactors," he added. McArdle resides in Melvindale, Michigan, less than 25 miles from Fermi nuclear power plant.

"The Great Lakes region has tremendous wind power potential," stated Derek Coronado of the Citizens Environment Alliance in Windsor, Ontario. "Atomic reactors are a dirty and dangerous relic of the past, while green collar jobs in efficiency and renewables are the wave of the future," he added.

Peter Bradford, former NRC Commissioner and utility regulation expert will be speaking in Monroe on Thursday, April 23rd, from 7-9 pm on the economics of nuclear power. The lecture will take place at the Community Room at 610 W. Elm, Monroe, MI.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has scheduled a hearing with oral arguments on standing and contention admissibility issues presented with

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regard to Fermi 3, for Tuesday, May 5, 2009, beginning at 10:00 a.m. EDT. The oral argument will take place in Council Chambers at Monroe City Hall, 120 East First Street, Monroe, Michigan. At the ASLB hearing, the environmental coalition will defend its contentions against objections raised by NRC Staff and Detroit Edison.

A copy of the environmental coalition's contention defense filing is available upon request from Kevin Kamps at Beyond Nuclear, (240) 462-3216 or [kevin@beyondnuclear.org](mailto:kevin@beyondnuclear.org), as well as at [www.beyondnuclear.org](http://www.beyondnuclear.org).

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