

## **Public Comments Received In Writing Between January 26, 2022 and March 1, 2022**

### **Topic: Covert Public Schools**

The plant is located inside Covert Public School system, which is a tiny one building K-12 school system that has a total of less than 350 students. The school district gets HUGE amount of total revenue (over 70%) from nuclear power plant taxes. They decided to reduce their property taxes I believe to zero for 2022-23 school year. Covert spends over 20k per student verses state funded schools, will Covert merge with bordering SouthHaven schools? What is the tax bill situation and impact? I strongly think it's time for Covert Schools to merge with South Haven. At 15-20 students for each grade, their are a lot of economies of scale to the integration of school system with SouthHaven.

- Darrel Bilbrey, comment received January 28, 2022 via email

### **Topic: Economic Recovery Efforts**

Hello. Could someone speak about all of the work done thus far over the last couple of years with regard to finding new businesses and companies to settle in South Haven area? What new companies providing tax base have settled in the area?

-Iris Potter, Received January 26, 2022 via Zoom Webinar Chat

### **Topic: Environmental Concerns**

If Holtec, as it plans, with NRC complicity, gets away with doing but a very shallow radiological cleanup at Palisades, leaving much to most of the hazardous radioactive contamination in the soil, groundwater, and Lake Michigan sediments, what will that mean for the area's tourism, recreation, real estate, and agricultural based economy? If and when that very long lasting hazardous radioactive contamination begins to hemorrhage over time, into the surrounding environment, to flow downwind, downstream, up the food chain, and down the generations, what will this mean for not only the local economy, but also for the health, safety, and environment of local residents?

Similarly, what will be the radioactive stigma effect of Holtec carrying out its current plan to barge radioactive wastes -- including significantly contaminated radioactive steam generators, as well as highly radioactive irradiated nuclear fuel -- on the waters of Lake Michigan, to the Port of Muskegon, for transfer onto trains, for rail shipment to proposed Western dump-sites, targeting Latinx and Indigenous areas of New Mexico, Texas, and/or Nevada? What will the radioactive stigma impact be, even if all those barge shipments are "routine" or "incident-free"? What will the economic -- as well as drinking water -- impact be if, God forbid, even a single one of those barge shipments were to sink, as due to accident, attack, extreme weather, etc., and the container were to leak its contents? What if infiltrating water were to spark an inadvertent nuclear chain reaction in the still fissile Uranium-235 and Plutonium-239 contained within, having formed a critical mass during the disaster, on the Lake bottom?

What guarantee is there that Holtec International will not pull a bait and switch, as it has at Oyster Creek, New Jersey? Having stated it would only decommission the retired reactor, and manage the highly radioactive wastes stored on-site there, Holtec then floated the trial balloon of building an experimental, untested Small Modular Nuclear Reactor of its own design there. What's to guarantee Holtec won't pull such a stunt at Palisades and/or Big Rock Point?

Similarly, what will the high risk on-site storage of irradiated nuclear fuel at Palisades -- likely to continue not for years, but even for decades, as even Holtec itself admits -- mean for the local economy, not to mention the health, safety, and environment of local residents? Given that both current dry cask storage pads at Palisades have long violated NRC earthquake safety regulations, shouldn't a new pad be built, to not only meet earthquake safety regulations, but also to take into consideration the historic high Lake Michigan water levels, and associated erosion, plaguing the shoreline very near to Palisades? Shouldn't the dry cask storage also be hardened, against potential attack and/or accident, given the many decades Palisades' irradiated nuclear fuel will likely continue to be stored on-site, for lack of an away-from-reactor option?

- Kevin Kamps, Comment Received January 26, 2022 via Zoom Webinar Chat

### **Public Comments Received During Public Comment Period During January 26, 2022 PCAP Meeting**

Jonathan Byrd, President of the South Central Michigan Area Labor Council, offered thanks to the members of the PCAP on behalf of the local labor movement for their time and service. This public comment is available as a full recording in [this recording](#) at 40:40.

Kevin Kamps, employee of Beyond Nuclear, member of the board of Don't Waste Michigan, and member of the advisory board for Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination, provided a summary of the comments and questions which he had previously submitted through the Zoom chat. These comments and questions addressed concerns about Holtec executing the decommissioning of the Palisades plant, the depths of cleanup for tritium spill, the potential risk associated with the transportation of site waste through the Great Lakes, and the movement of dry-cask storage on the Palisades site away from the lake to a location that meets the NRC's earthquake safety regulations. This public comment is available as a full recording in [this recording](#) at 43:02.

Iris Potter, Michigan Safe Energy Future, asked what kind of new businesses have been recruited to settle in the South Haven area in order to mitigate the loss of tax base. This public comment is available as a full recording in [this recording](#) at 47:07.

Katheryn Barns shared that she had learned that Holtec has been nuclear dumping waste into the Atlantic Ocean. She asked whether Holtec would do something similar in Lake Michigan. Ms. Barns advocated for a watchdog group that would ensure the NRC does its job to oversight to ensure Holtec does not do in Michigan what they have done on the East Coast. Ms. Barns also expressed that contamination from the tritium spill should be cleaned up no matter how deep the contamination goes and where the denomination has occurred. Ms. Barnes also requested more information on how the nuclear waste will be removed from the Palisades site. This public comment is available as a full recording in [this recording](#) at 48:22.