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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-3229

March 8, 1994

Mr. Dennis Rathbun  
Office of Congressional Affairs  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mail Spot 17A3  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Mr. Rathbun:

I am contacting you on behalf of one of my constituents who is concerned about the recent release of radioactive waste water into Lake Erie by Detroit Edison and the Fermi II nuclear plant in Monroe, Michigan. Enclosed please find a news report on the matter.

I would appreciate a response detailing who was involved in the decision to release the 1.5 million gallons of water; the circumstances leading to the necessity of the release; and, the environmental impact on the lake.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



JOHN J. LaFALCE  
Member of Congress

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THE SPARKS, MICHIGAN AND ...

# Radioactive water going into Lake Erie

## Officials OK release from damaged nuclear power plant in Michigan

Associated Press <sup>BN 2/24/94</sup>  
<sub>A3</sub>

MONROE, Mich. — Detroit Edison's plan to release slightly radioactive water from the Fermi II nuclear plant into Lake Erie today has received the blessings of state, county and city officials.

But several protesters at Wednesday's informational meeting on the planned discharge were more skeptical, questioning the accuracy of test results and possible long-term consequences.

More than 250 people filled a middle school auditorium for the meeting with officials from Detroit Edison, the state and Monroe County health departments, the City of Monroe, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and a

University of Michigan professor who supervised testing of the water.

The 1.5 million gallons of tainted water are being dumped as part of repairs to the plant. It was damaged Christmas Day when a steam turbine failed.

Utility officials planned the release for last week but delayed it when some consumer groups, Monroe County and some municipal officials objected.

The NRC and Michigan Department of Natural Resources plan to monitor the release.

Fermi II shut down after the accident in which a turbine tore loose and smashed a condenser that cools steam from the nuclear reactor.

Fermi II provides about 15 percent of Detroit Edison's power at full operation. Its shutdown is expected to last for months while millions of dollars worth of repairs are made.