



NEWS RELEASE

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DTE Energy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Announce Partnership to Restore Wetlands at Monroe Power Plant

Monroe, Michigan – DTE Energy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announce a partnership to restore several wetlands at the Monroe Power Plant, which is located on the western Lake Erie shoreline within the boundaries of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has awarded a \$5,000 Challenge Cost Share grant for the wetland restoration project.

More than 20 years ago, two small ponds on Detroit Edison's Monroe Power Plant site were used to rear walleye during a time when the Lake Erie walleye population was in crisis. The Lake Erie walleye population is now in a "high quality" state and walleye rearing is no longer necessary because of environmental improvements in Lake Erie and fishery management efforts.

These remnant walleye rearing ponds, along with additional shoreline areas on the plant site, now will be restored to productive wetlands for waterfowl. DTE Energy will provide in-kind support to this wetland restoration project. In addition, during 2006, four acres of wetlands were restored and 43 acres of native grasses were planted at the Monroe Power Plant by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Monroe Chapter of Pheasants Forever and DTE Energy.

The plant fuel supply staff provided equipment and labor for the 2006 wetland habitat work and Pheasants Forever provided equipment and labor for the native grass planting. Both of these contributions are being used as a match on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant. Such wetland restoration projects are significant because western Lake Erie has lost more than 90 percent of its coastal wetlands to development.

"We are grateful for this generous grant that will help us continue our efforts to improve the quality and quantity of wildlife habitat at the Monroe Power Plant site" said Frank Wszelaki, plant director. "It is especially satisfying that we are able to give the former walleye ponds a new purpose that will continue to support healthy populations of local wildlife."

The Monroe Power Plant site has maintained Certified Wildlife Habitat status from the Wildlife Habitat Council since 1999.

"For those of us who are passionate about conservation, it is gratifying to see this wetland restoration project and how government can work with business for the common cause of protecting the land and the creatures that inhabit it," said Congressman John D. Dingell. "The wetland restoration project at the Monroe Power Plant clearly demonstrates a new paradigm of conservation for the 21st Century."

The Detroit International Wildlife Refuge covers 48 miles of shoreline along the Detroit River and western Lake Erie (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/detroitriver/>). The Refuge focuses on conserving, protecting and restoring habitat for 29 species of waterfowl, 65 kinds of fish, and 300 species of migratory birds. The Detroit River International Refuge is the first international refuge in North America. Unique habitats being managed within the Refuge include islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals and riverfront lands.

DTE Energy is committed to creating long-term value for its shareholders while operating in an ethical, legal, environmentally sensitive, and socially responsible manner. The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is, working with others, to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Detroit Edison is an investor-owned electric utility serving 2.2 million customers in Southeastern Michigan and a subsidiary of DTE Energy (NYSE:DTE), a Detroit-based diversified energy company involved in the development and management of energy-related businesses and services nationwide. Information about DTE Energy is available at www.dteenergy.com.

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