



rRemarks Data for June 11, 2024 Village Council Meeting

Agenda Section & Item: Comments of a General Nature

Commenter: David Rose

Comment: Comments on the financial audit report

Pre comment

At VC's 04 Jun meeting, members of VC heard a presentation on the audit of village finances. Residents were encouraged to review the draft report, attached to the agenda.

As of 10 Jun, the link to the agenda was NOT accessible in the usual way -- picking from archived agendas by specifying a specific year, month, and meeting date.

I had to use the search mechanism to find the 04 Jun agenda.

Comment

1. In reviewing the historical data at the end of the report, I discovered that someone has a rather unconventional approach to ranking. Specifically,

if one examines the principal companies of DG (p 203), one discovers that 'rank' handles a 'tie' as if the tied entities are a single entity.

Which yields the effect that in 2023 the company with rank 10 is actually the 14th largest local employer.

2. I found particularly striking the turnover in the set of principal companies between 2023 and 9 years prior. Only 7 of the 14 in 2023 were on the list in 2014. Typical? Of DG's past? Of towns similar to DG?

3. Methodology question: Who generates the list? And how? Does EDC have a complete list of private employers in DG? Of private employers of size greater than 50 employees? Does anyone actually track business turnover?

4. Also interesting about the list is that the second largest employer in 2023 is something called Hearthside Food Solutions. Its corporate headquarters are in DG, although I found no mention of that fact on the company's website. Perhaps I looked in the wrong places.

I'd never heard of them. But an internet search turned up an interesting wikipedia page with the following associated links:

Dreier, Hannah (2023-03-03). ""Searching for the Faces of Migrant Child Labor"". The New York Times. ISSN 0362-4331. Retrieved 2023-03-04.

Salisbury, Danielle | (2023-02-27). ""Food processor exposed for illegally employing minors in Grand Rapids, says its reviewing practices"". mlive. Retrieved 2023-03-04.

Coyne, Andy (2023-02-28). ""US snacks firm Hearthside Food Solutions implicated in US child labour probe"". Just Food. Retrieved 2023-03-04.

""US Department of Labor finds Hearthside Food Solutions violates federal safety procedures for 20th time in 5 years"". US Department of Labor (Press release). Retrieved 2023-03-04.

20 times in 5 years?

Who's more culpable here, the company or the government for the inability to stop the company's bad behavior?

Quote CC: ""Capitalism can always do better.""

5. Speaking of questionable (bad?) corporate behavior (public and private), I came across a story about Xcel Energy on 10 Jun.

If you go to the company's website, you can find their Sustainability report for 2023.

<https://xcelnew.my.salesforce.com/sfc/p/#1U0000011ttV/a/8b000002EYTX/bILcGtcEsatlX.olduxDM.kyJeHT3LFNMaCVIC0x0ko>

It includes the usual stuff one would expect -- about its reaching net zero, valuing people, strengthening communities, and operating with integrity.

However, this piece

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2024/06/10/radioactive-tritium-from-monticello-reactor-leaked-to-the-mississippi-river/>

discusses a reversal of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) repeated prior assertions ...

that 820,000 gallons of radioactive tritium-contaminated cooling water leaked from Xcel's Monticello MN nuke plant site (near the Twin Cities) had not reached the Mississippi R.

Why is this reversal important? Because local residents want to know if the leak affects their drinking water. And because ...

The company is hoping to extend the plant's operating license.

Which begs these questions: How much should we as a state and nation expect nuke power to help us reach the so-called 'net zero' goal; and can nuke power do so without yielding other dubious effects?

Perhaps one or more of the local nuke power proponents can chime in.