



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
ONE CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100
BOSTON, MA 02114-2023

June 14, 2005

Mr. Andrew Silfer
Corporate Environmental Programs
General Electric Company
159 Plastics Avenue
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Via Electronic and U.S. Mail

Re: Conditional Approval of General Electric's *Pre-Design Investigation Report for Phase 4 Floodplain Properties*, GE- Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Silfer:

This letter provides the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) conditional approval of the above-referenced *Pre-Design Investigation Report for Phase 4 Floodplain Properties*, dated April 2005 (Report). The Report is subject to the terms and conditions specified in the Consent Decree (CD) that was entered in U.S. District Court on October 27, 2000.

Pursuant to Paragraph 73 of the CD, EPA, after consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP), approves the Report subject to the following conditions.

1. EPA sample locations provided on the figures in the Report reflect the survey coordinates provided to GE in EPA's database exchange. However, EPA has identified several discrepancies between the locations depicted in the Report figures and the locations described in documents titled *Site Investigation Report for the General Electric Residential Sampling Project, Residential Property- R72* and *Site Investigation Report for the General Electric Residential Sampling Project, Residential Property-R89*. For example, locations R72DZ214, R72DZ237, R72DZ260, R72DZ283, R72DZ306, which are shown on the western portion of Parcel I6-1-67, should be located on the western portion of Parcel I6-1-66. All samples with a prefix of "R72" were collected from Parcel I6-1-66. Similarly, all samples with prefix RA89 were collected from Parcel I6-1-106, samples with prefix RB89 were collected from I6-1-62, all samples with prefix RC89 were collected from parcel I6-1-104, and all samples with prefix RD 89 were collected from Parcel I6-1-103. GE shall compare the EPA sampling locations shown on the figures in the Report to those shown in the above-referenced documents and modify them accordingly in the RD/RA Work Plan for the Phase 4 Floodplain Properties.

2. GE shall show the wetland pools located at Parcel I6-1-106 in figures to be provided in the RD/RA Work Plan, as appropriate.
3. Section 5 of the Report states that GE will submit a supplemental PDI letter report within 45 days of EPA's approval of this Report. The Report also states that the RD/RA Work Plan will be submitted within 2 months from the date of submission of the supplemental PDI letter report, assuming that no additional sampling activities are necessary. GE shall submit the Supplemental PDI report within 30 days from the date of this letter and the RD/RA Work Plan for the Phase 4 Floodplain Properties within 45 days from the date of the Supplemental PDI letter report. This will help to ensure good coordination between the removal action along the 1-1/2 Mile Reach and the removal action within the abutting floodplain properties.

If there is any conflict between the Performance Standards as described in the Work Plan and as set forth in the Consent Decree and/or Statement of Work for Removal Actions Outside the River (Appendix E to the Consent Decree), the Consent Decree and Statement of Work shall control. EPA reserves its right to perform additional sampling and/or require additional sampling or Response Actions, if necessary, to meet the requirements of the Consent Decree.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (617) 918-1240.

Sincerely,



William Lovely
GE Facility Project Manager

cc.

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Affected Property Owners
Public Information Repositories