

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
New England Office – Region I  
One Congress Street, Suite 1100  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2023**

April 1, 2009

Mr. Andrew T. Silfer, P.E.  
General Electric Company  
159 Plastics Avenue  
Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201

Sent via US Mail and Electronic Mail

**Re: GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site: Rest of River Corrective Measures Study**

Dear Mr. Silfer:

This letter addresses the upcoming submittal by the General Electric Company (“GE”) of an addendum to the Corrective Measures Study (“CMS”) Proposal (“Work Plan”) for the GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site (“Site”) and the subsequent submittal of a Revised CMS. On January 16, 2009, GE submitted a request to provide an evaluation of an additional set of alternatives for remediation of river sediment and river bank and floodplain soil in the Rest of River portion of the Site.

At a meeting with you on March 12, 2009 to discuss these alternatives, the government parties (EPA, MassDEP, Massachusetts Fish and Game, CT DEP, the Connecticut Attorney General’s Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) indicated that they may request additional information in that April 24, 2009 draft Work Plan submittal. EPA, following consultation with the government parties, verbally notified GE on March 25, 2009 of the information to be included in the draft Work Plan. In this letter, EPA reiterates that notification. Items to be included in GE’s draft Work Plan are the following:

1. GE shall analyze additional sediment remediation alternative(s) applying wet excavation techniques (as described in the CMS Proposal, however utilizing equipment and methods appropriate to the river conditions) to remove the PCBs from sediment and river bank soil in Reaches 5A and 5B. GE shall propose the remediation techniques that this would be paired with in the other reaches in the draft Work Plan for discussion with the agencies. GE shall analyze this/these alternative(s) on an equal footing with the other sediment alternatives in the Revised CMS.

2. GE may conduct the analysis of the additional sediment alternative which you presented to the government parties on December 19, 2008 and subsequently discussed with the government parties on March 12, 2009. GE shall describe this sediment alternative in detail in the draft Work Plan, including references to all supporting information relied on in developing the basis for this alternative, and analyze this alternative on an equal footing with the other sediment alternatives in the Revised CMS.

It appears to EPA that the floodplain alternative that GE presented to the government parties on December 19, 2008 is the same as FP 2; however GE's implementation of the alternative is conducted in a different manner. If GE is proposing a floodplain alternative that is defined differently than those already analyzed in the CMS, GE may correct EPA's assumption in the draft Work Plan. If this is the case, GE shall provide a detailed description of the floodplain alternative and how it differs from the definition of FP 2, and add it as an additional floodplain alternative in the draft Work Plan.

3. When analyzing the alternatives on an equal footing in the Revised CMS, GE shall perform all analyses using the criteria in the Revised RCRA Permit and addressing the concerns expressed in EPA's General Comments and Specific Comments of September 9, 2008, (e.g. Comment 10 regarding the need for avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of the impact of remediation to environmental resources).

GE shall either evaluate each sediment and floodplain alternative separately and perform the comparative analyses across the sediment and floodplain alternatives as was done in the CMS

submittal of March 2008, or evaluate all possible combinations of the sediment and floodplain alternatives and perform comparative analyses across all combinations, with the exception of the No Action alternatives. GE shall describe the approach to this and the issue described in the preceding paragraph in the draft Work Plan.

4. GE shall respond fully to General Comment 42 of EPA's September 9, 2008 comments on GE's March 8, 2008 proposed Corrective Measures Study (as further defined in EPA's October 30, 2008 letter) in an interim deliverable to be submitted in summer of 2009. GE failed to provide a response to General Comment 42 in GE's March 9, 2009 CMS Supplement. GE shall propose a submittal date in the Work Plan for consideration and response from EPA.

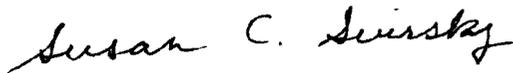
5. GE shall consider the implications of the Commonwealth's March 30, 2009 Designation of the Upper Housatonic River Area of Critical Environmental Concern, in its evaluation of ARARs.

Pursuant to EPA's February 5, 2009 letter to GE in this regard and EPA's email correspondence to GE on March 17, 2009, GE is required to submit the draft Work Plan by April 24, 2009.

As you know, GE's March 9, 2009 Response to EPA's Interim Comments on the CMS is currently undergoing an informal public input period. EPA reserves all of its rights with respect to GE's March 9, 2009 submittal. EPA also reserves its rights to require additional information in the final Work Plan. Please be advised that by not identifying in this letter particular concerns with GE's March 9, 2009 submittal, EPA is not agreeing with or accepting GE analyses, proposals or arguments in this regard.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 617.918.1434.

Sincerely,



Susan C. Svirsky, Project Manager  
Rest of River

cc: Mike Carroll, GE  
Rod McLaren, GE  
Thomas Hill, GE  
Jeff Porter, Mintz Levin  
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