



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

February 7, 2006

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

Via Electronic and U.S. Mail

Re: Newell Street Area II Proposal for Additional Removal Actions  
GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Silfer:

This letter provides the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) conditional approval of the above referenced *Newell Street Area II Proposal for Additional Removal Actions* (Proposal) dated January 18, 2006. This Proposal 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 above-referenced submittal subject to the following conditions.

1. Page 3 of the Proposal states that during excavation, GE will remove and stockpile for reuse material that was previously placed as backfill. GE shall not place any of this previously used backfill material within the top 3-feet of the final grade at any removal area.
2. The Proposal does not address what additional response actions GE will take should PCB concentrations in ambient air exceed the 0.05 ug/m<sup>3</sup> notification level or 0.1 ug/m<sup>3</sup> action level. If the 0.05 ug/m<sup>3</sup> notification level is exceeded, GE shall notify EPA promptly, but no later than 24 hours after receipt of the data showing such an exceedance, and shall implement additional response actions. The actions to be considered shall include those previously implemented by GE at other areas at the CD Site (e.g., increased frequency of monitoring, additional monitoring locations, increased use of dust suppression measures, modifications to dust-producing activities). If the action level of 0.1 ug/m<sup>3</sup> is exceeded, GE shall notify EPA immediately upon receipt of the data showing such an exceedance, and shall temporarily shut down excavation activities and discuss with EPA the need for and type of short-term actions to address the exceedance.

In addition, GE shall evaluate the need for additional engineering controls, discuss that evaluation with EPA, and if warranted, propose such controls. EPA approval of appropriate response actions and engineering controls, if proposed, shall be required prior to GE resuming excavation activities.

EPA's approval of this Proposal does not constitute any agreement by EPA regarding any other portions of the Newell Street Area II removal action area, or other portion of the GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site. Also, with respect to all areas, EPA reserves all rights it has regarding activities other than approved herein including, but not limited to, its right to perform additional investigation activities and/or require additional investigation activities 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 P. Lovely, Jr.  
GE Facility Project Manager

cc:

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