

**United States Environmental Protection Agency
EPA New England – Region 1
One Congress Street, Suite 1100
Boston, MA 02114-2023**

November 20, 2007

Ms. Brona Simon, Executive Director
c/o Edward Bell
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Sent via US and Electronic Mail

RE: GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, Rest of River Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment

Dear Ms. Simon:

EPA received your letter of October 30, 2007 regarding GE's performance of a Phase 1 Cultural Resources Assessment (CRA) for the Rest of River portion of the Housatonic River.

GE (under the oversight of EPA) retained URS as the archaeological consultant to complete the CRA (also referred to as an archaeological reconnaissance survey) for the Rest of River. As required by EPA in response to your earlier correspondence, GE has added an underwater archaeologist to the URS team.

EPA would like to clarify that pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the National Contingency Plan regulations, no Federal, State or local permit is required for any portion of a response action conducted entirely on-site, where such response action is selected and carried out in accordance with CERCLA. See Section 121(e) of CERCLA, and 40 C.F.R. Section 300.400(e). The CRA work is being conducted on-site. Accordingly, while the CRA work must comply with the substantive provisions of Federal, State and local requirements, a permit is not required for such work. GE is

aware of the need to satisfy the substantive requirements, and EPA will work with GE to insure that this occurs.

In addition, it should be noted that EPA considered the comments provided by MHR and believes that the issues raised in the comments were already brought to GE's attention in EPA's Conditional Approval Letter dated July 11, 2007. In addition, your letters were forwarded to GE for their consideration.

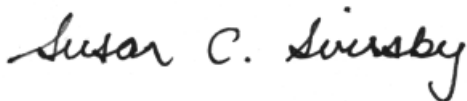
As mentioned in our previous correspondence with you, EPA recognizes that it is possible that additional archaeological investigation may be necessary after selection of the preferred cleanup alternative.

GE is to submit the proposed Phase I CRA on March 21, 2008. EPA will request your review and input on the Phase I CRA at that time.

Katherine Atwood with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is serving as the liaison, on behalf of EPA, with the state and tribal entities for this work. She will coordinate the upcoming review with your office.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 617-918-1434 or Katherine at 978-318-8537.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan C. Svirsky".

Susan C. Svirsky, Rest of River

Project Manager

cc: Andrew Silfer, GE
Rod McLaren, GE
Kevin Mooney, GE
Susan Steenstrup, MADEP
Anna Symington, MADEP

Dale Young, MAEOEEA
Mr. Victor Mastone, MA BUAR
Ms. Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, THPO, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)
Ms. Kathleen Knowles, THPO, Mashantucket Pequot Tribe
Ms. Sherry White, THPO, c/o Stockbridge-Munsee Community
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