

CONCERNED STAKEHOLDERS
OF THE HOUSATONIC RIVER WATERSHED

November 15, 2005

Susan Svirsky
"Rest of the River" Project Manager
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
10 Lyman Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Dear Ms. Svirsky:

As the Environmental Protection Agency considers the overall issue of "The Rest of the River" and the specific recent submission by General Electric of its proposed Interim Media Protection Goals (IMPGs), we, the undersigned concerned stakeholders of the Housatonic River Watershed, respectfully urge the Agency not to lose sight of the original goals, universally accepted throughout the watershed and enshrined for over a quarter of a century in Federal and State law and regulations, of a Fishable and Swimmable Housatonic River. These goals, fully supported by the citizens of the Housatonic Watershed, have been with us from the very beginning of the cleanup process that is now well underway.

The EPA's own web site makes it very clear that, under the Clean Water Act, the states, under the watchful supervision of the EPA, "must provide water quality for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and provide for recreation in and on the water [fishable/swimmable water quality] where attainable."

"Swimmable" is shorthand for water quality necessary to support safe recreation in and on the water – and includes all types of water-based recreation. "Fishable" is shorthand for the quality necessary to support the protection and propagation of healthy fish, shellfish, and wildlife.

As you consider the various cleanup options before you, as you focus on the minutia, on the deluge of statistics and acronyms, we urge that you also reflect on the larger purpose and the greater good that is within your power to provide. We ask you to leave behind a river that future generations will enjoy without reservation and a cleanup that will not require revisiting.

November 15, 2005

Page 2

Fully aware of the constraints of budget, time and manpower and of the substantial difficulties that may be encountered, we nevertheless urge you to support a cleanup that goes beyond mere minimal regulatory and statutory requirements, using both innovative thought and technology to achieve the most thorough and protective results. Let us not squander this very real opportunity to leave behind a cleanup that will bear the informed scrutiny of future generations and a river that has been returned to its rightful Fishable and Swimmable condition for all of us and for all generations to come.

Respectfully yours,

The Tri-Town Health Department
Lee, MA
Peter Kolodziej, Director

Town of Sheffield Board of Health
Sheffield, MA
Joel Weiss, Chairman

Rachel Fletcher
Founding Director, Housatonic River Walk
Executive Director, Housatonic River Restoration
Great Barrington, MA

Housatonic River Initiative (HRI)
Lee, MA
Tim Gray, Executive Director

All 45 Lee High School Environmental Sciences Students, and
All 18 Berkshire Community College Conservation of Natural Resources Students
Lee & Pittsfield, MA
Tim Hickey, Instructor

CDC of South Berkshire
Great Barrington, MA
Timothy Geller, Executive Director

The Laurel Hill Association
Stockbridge, MA
Shepley Evans, President

Siobhan McNally, MD
Founder/ Director of SPROUT-Berkshire Initiative
for Children's Environmental Health
Co-Chair, Enviro. Health Committee, MA Chapter,
The American Academy of Pediatrics
Lenox, MA

Center for Ecological Technology
Pittsfield, MA
Laura Dubester, Director

Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT)
Pittsfield, MA
Jane & Bruce Winn, Directors

The Sheffield Land Trust
Sheffield, MA
Kathy Orlando, Executive Director

Stephen McMahon
Western Regional Director
The Trustees of Reservations
West Stockbridge, MA

Nancy Goldberger, Co-Director
Housatonic River Summer 2004
West Stockbridge, MA

November 15, 2005
Page 3

The Sheffield Art League
Sheffield, MA
Nancy Goldberger, President

Housatonic Environmental Action League
Cornwall Bridge, CT
Audrey Cole, President

Berkshire-Litchfield Environmental Council
Lakeville, CT
Star Childs, President

The Schaghticoke Indian Tribe
Kent, CT
Gary Ritchie, Secretary

Citizens for PCB Removal
Pittsfield, MA
Barbara Cianfarini, Charles Cianfarini and
Thelma Barzottini, Co-Founders

Tri-Corner Community Development Corp.
Great Barrington, MA
Timothy Geller, Executive Director

William Brockman Real Estate
Monterey, MA
William Brockman, Broker

Phoenix Rising Yoga Therapy Training Ctr.
West Stockbridge, MA
Annie Brody, Managing Director

Project Native
Housatonic, MA
Raina Weber, Director
Erik Bruun, Chmn. of the Board

Berkshire Corporation
Great Barrington, MA
Wendy E. Ramos, Admin. Services

Flying Cloud Institute
New Marlboro, MA
Jane S. Burke, Executive Director

Northwest Conservation District
Torrington, CT
Jean Cronauer, Executive Director

Shelton Citizens Against Riverfront
Disasters (SCARD)
Shelton, CT
Randy Ann York, President

Housatonic Area Canoe &
Kayak Squad (HACKS)
Torrington, CT
Marcus Organschi, Administrator

Berkshire Interfaith Community
Investment Fund
Great Barrington, MA
Timothy Geller, Executive Director

FRIDAY & Co. Real Estate
Stockbridge, MA
Shepley Evans, Broker

Barrington Stage Company
Sheffield, MA
Lynn Brady, Office Manager

Bradford Wagstaff, Owner
Gedney Farm
New Marlboro, MA

Dale Abrams &
Alison Coenen Abrams
Great Barrington, MA

November 15, 2005
Page 4

Ethel & George Shippey
Stockbridge, MA

Jane Wright
Sheffield, MA

Ann Jon
Great Barrington, MA

Benno Friedman
Great Barrington, MA

Andrew Schamess, MD
Lenox, MA

Barbara Allen
Stockbridge, MA

Nan Wile
Great Barrington, MA

Cynthia Pease
Sheffield, MA

Robin Getzen
Stockbridge, MA

Cynthia T. Brown
Stockbridge, MA

Edith Gilson
Sheffield, MA

Teresa A. Mango
Stockbridge, MA

Wanda M. Styka
Ashley Falls, Sheffield, MA

Dr. & Mrs. Christopher Nye
Sheffield, MA

Nancy Darlene Bledsoe
Stockbridge, MA

Erica Fay
Great Barrington, MA

Ruth Dinerman
Lee, MA

Atty. Harry Conklin
Great Barrington, MA

Jim Schantz & Kim Saul
Glendale, MA

Rev. Kathy Duhon
Great Barrington, MA

John Hyson
Stockbridge, MA

Thomas A. Blauvelt
Great Barrington, MA

Timothy Geller
Stockbridge, MA

Cara Davis
Stockbridge, MA

Lisa Novick, MSS
Great Barrington, MA

Teresa B. Wise
Stockbridge, MA

Janet S. Comalli
Lee, MA

David Wade Smith
Great Barrington, MA

Tara Rae Gunter
Lee, MA

Emily Claire Brown
Stockbridge, MA

November 15, 2005
Page 5

Allison Lasso
Sheffield, MA

Rene Wendell, Jr.
Pittsfield, MA

Paula M. Hatch
New Marlboro, MA

Ann Barrett
Sheffield, MA

Olga May Milligan
Great Barrington, MA

Patricia E. Flinn
Stockbridge, MA

Kathy Orlando
Sheffield, MA

Lisa Haynes
Pittsfield, MA

Dave Nadig
Lenox, MA

Robert M. Kelly & Mary T. Kelly
Lee, MA

K. Meagan Ledendecker
Lenox, MA

Sharon Gregory
Sheffield, MA

Susan Hartung
Housatonic, MA

Mark & Monica Fadding
Glendale, MA

Jane Iredale
Great Barrington

Patricia Jacobsen Brady
Southfield, MA

Donna Walto
Pittsfield, MA

Peter Flemming
Great Barrington

Anna James
Great Barrington, MA

Eva Nielsen
Sheffield, MA

Roger J. Peltier
Pittsfield, MA

Lois Hartwick
Great Barrington, MA

Shep Evans
Stockbridge, MA

Karen Skelton
Great Barrington, MA

Bruce Edward Mandell
Otis, MA

Sarah H. Bell
Lenox, MA

Michael J. Makes
Pittsfield, MA

Oliver & Sharon Palma
Sheffield, MA