



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

May 11, 2006

Mr. Andrew T. 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 *Third Interim Pre-Design Investigation Report for Soils Adjacent to Silver Lake and Addendum to Third Interim Pre-Design Investigation Report for Soils Adjacent to Silver Lake*, GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Silfer:

This letter contains the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) conditional approval of the above-referenced *Third Interim Pre-Design Investigation Report for Soils Adjacent to Silver Lake* (Report) as modified by the *Addendum to Third Interim Pre-Design Investigation Report for Soils Adjacent to Silver Lake* (Addendum). The Report and Addendum are dated December 20, 2005 and April 5, 2006, respectively and are both 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 and Addendum, subject to the following conditions.

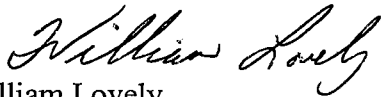
1. To minimize the potential need for additional sampling events on Parcel I9-9-19, GE shall consider collecting additional soil samples from the 0- to 1- foot interval at locations east and west of proposed sampling location I9-9-19-SB-2-SS and locations south, east, and west of proposed sampling location I9-9-19-SB-2-SSS. These samples would be held for potential analysis of lead based on the results from the 0- to 1-foot samples collected from I9-9-19-SB-2-SS and I9-9-19-SB-2-SSS.
2. EPA does not agree with GE's proposal to limit the analysis of samples collected from Parcel I9-9-24 to cadmium, chromium, and copper. These three metals are a subset of the Target Analyte List (TAL) of metals that are reported as part of the analysis. GE shall include the results of the full TAL as part of the Pre-Design Investigation for Soils Adjacent to Silver Lake.

GE shall complete the sampling and analysis described in the Report and Addendum, as modified by the comments above, and submit the next Pre-Design Investigation Report within four months from the date of this letter.

EPA reserves its right to perform additional sampling in the areas subject to this Report 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) 918-1247.

Sincerely,



William Lovely
GE Facility Project Manager

cc:

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Affected Property Owners