

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
New England Office
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-2023

August 30, 2006
Mr. Andrew T. Silfer
Corporate Environmental Programs
General Electric Company
159 Plastics Avenue
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Via Electronic and U.S. Mail

Re: EPA Conditional Approval of General Electric's *Proposed Silver Lake Bank Soil Removal, August 22, 2006*, GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Silfer:

This letter constitutes the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Conditional Approval of the *Proposed Silver Lake Bank Soil Removal* dated August 22, 2006. The GE submittal 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. In approving this expedited removal of selected Silver Lake bank soil, EPA is not providing an approval of the RD/RA evaluation for Recreational Area 4, the area from which the soil is to be removed.

EPA requests that two clarifications be made to the letter prior to undertaking the action. These are discussed below.

Page 1, 2nd paragraph. "*Removal of bank soils to a depth of 3 feet (as measured normal to bank surface) down to the depth of the mean surface water elevation would occur...*" GE shall remove 3 feet of bank soil throughout the area proposed for removal in this expedited removal action.

Page 1, 2nd paragraph, last sentence and Page 2, 1st paragraph, 1st sentence. Based upon conversations between GE and EPA, it is EPA's understanding that the soil removed from location RA-4-SB-8 will be disposed of off-site as described on Page 1, rather than on-site as described in the 1st sentence on Page 2.

EPA reserves its rights to perform additional sampling and/or require additional sampling or Response Actions, if necessary, to meet the requirements of the CD.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Susan C. Svirsky, Project Manager

cc: Mike Carroll, GE
Rod McLaren, GE
Kevin Mooney, GE
James Bieke, Goodwin Procter
James Nuss, BBL
Stuart Messur, BBL
Mark Gravelding, BBL
Susan Steenstrup, MADEP
Anna Symington, MADEP
Jane Rothschild, MADEP
Dale Young, MAEOEA
Kenneth Munney, USFWS
Holly Inglis, US EPA
Dave Peterson, US EPA
Dean Tagliaferro, US EPA
K.C. Mitkevicius, USACE
Thomas Fredette, USACE
Thomas Hickey, PEDA
Mayor James Ruberto, City of Pittsfield
Scott Campbell, Weston Solutions
Linda Palmieri, Weston Solutions
Mike Palermo, Mike Palermo Consulting
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