



01-0899

SDMS 244826

GE
159 Plastics Avenue
Pittsfield, MA 01201
USA

Transmitted via Overnight Courier

December 20, 2005

Dean Tagliaferro,
EPA Project Coordinator
c/o Weston Solutions, Inc.
10 Lyman Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201

**Re: GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site
East Street Area 2-South (GECD150)
Summary of November 2005 Inspection Activities – City Recreational Area**

Dear Mr. Tagliaferro:

On November 18, 2005, the General Electric Company (GE) performed an inspection of the City Recreational Area located within a portion of the GE Plant Area in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. The City Recreational Area is depicted on Figure 1 and consists of two sub-areas – designated on Figure 1 as the Ballfield Area and the Access Road Area. As you know, soil remediation activities, construction of athletic fields and ancillary facilities, and site restoration activities within the City Recreational Area were completed in June 2004, and the area is currently leased to the City of Pittsfield for its use as a multi-functional recreational area. The purpose of GE's November 18th inspection was to: 1) expand upon the informal inspections previously conducted since the time that restoration activities were completed, 2) visually observe and document current conditions within the City Recreational Area, and 3) identify any repair or maintenance items necessary to maintain compliance with the applicable Performance Standards established in the Consent Decree for this area. The timing of this inspection was coincident with the anticipated seasonal closing of the Ballfield Area and as a follow-up to a major storm event that occurred in the Pittsfield area in October 2005.

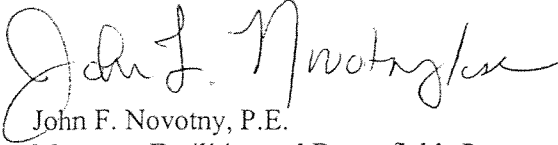
The inspection included observations of the condition of the soil and gravel cover areas for evidence of erosion, excessive settlement, unauthorized excavation, or other conditions that could jeopardize the integrity of the covers. It also included an inspection of the vegetative material to ensure that it was growing as anticipated and providing appropriate erosion control. In addition, the perimeter fencing was inspected to assess its condition and to identify any evidence of unauthorized access to the City Recreational Area or from that area to the adjacent East Street Area 2-South Removal Action Area. To facilitate and document the results of the recent inspection, GE prepared the attached Inspection Summary and Checklist. This form will be used in the future to formally document the inspection activities and to track the completion of identified repair/maintenance activities. In addition, several photographs taken during the November 18th inspection are attached to the checklist.

The results of the November 2005 inspection indicated that the City Recreational Area was in good overall condition. Certain recent physical changes were noted (relative to prior inspections), including the installation of playground equipment in the northeast corner of the Ballfield Area, the construction-in-progress of new dugout structures associated with the baseball field, and the relocation of the vehicular access gate within the parking lot area. The surface covers over the ballfields, parking lot, and access road were in good condition (i.e., no signs of erosion, excessive settlement, etc.), and all of the fencing was in good working order. Two items were noted during that inspection that warrant follow-up attention. First, a small erosional gully was observed within the southern portion of the Ballfield Area and extending beneath the existing fenceline. This gully, measuring approximately 5 feet in length and one foot in width and depth, was repaired and re-seeded by GE on December 2, 2005. Second, certain soil areas within the Access Road Area adjacent to the access road were void of vegetation, presumably due to vehicle traffic and parking. GE will discuss with the City the necessary actions to be taken to address these areas. The findings of the November 18th inspection are documented in the attached Inspection Summary and Checklist.

GE will continue to inspect the City Recreational Area on at least an annual basis.

Please contact me at 413-448-5905 with any questions or comments.

Sincerely



John F. Novotny, P.E.

Manager, Facilities and Brownfields Programs

Attachment

V:\GE_Pittsfield_CD_ESA_2_South\Reports and Presentations\CITY REC\74152196Ltr.doc

cc: Sharon Hayes, EPA	Jeffrey Bernstein, Bernstein, Cushner & Kimmell
Tim Conway, EPA (w/o attachment)	Teresa Bowers, Gradient
John Kilborn, EPA	Michael Carroll, GE
Holly Inglis, EPA	Rod McLaren, GE
Rose Howell, EPA (w/o attachment)	Andrew Silber, GE
Linda Palmieri, Weston	James Bieke, Goodwin Procter
Susan Steenstrup, MDEP	Samuel Gutter, Sidley Austin Brown & Wood
Anna Symington, MDEP (w/o attachment)	James Nuss, BBL
Robert Bell, MDEP (w/o attachment)	Public Information Repositories
Mayor J. Ruberto, City of Pittsfield	GE Internal Repository
Thomas Hickey, PEDAs	

**INSPECTION SUMMARY AND CHECKLIST
CITY RECREATIONAL AREA**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Inspection Date: November 18, 2005
 Conducted By: John Novotny (GE), James Nuss (BBL)
 Weather Conditions: Sunny, 38° F
 Date of Last Inspection: Periodic Formal Inspections Since May 2004.

II. INSPECTION SUMMARY

1. Ballfield Area - Vegetative Cover *(Note any physical changes since last inspection; note any surface cover alterations, erosion/burrows, uneven settlement, unauthorized excavation, unanticipated uses of area, etc.)*

- Erosional gully noted along southern fenceline of Ballfield Area (see Part III below).
- Ongoing construction of new dugout structures, noted; Dugout on 1st base side currently excavated with standing water; depth of excavation may extent to native pre-cover soils.
- New playground structure noted in northeast corner of Ballfield Area
- All other areas in good condition

2. Parking Area / Access Road Area *(Note any physical changes since last inspection; note any surface alterations, erosions/burrows, uneven settlement, exposed geotextile material, unauthorized excavation, unanticipated uses of area, etc.)*

- Gravel surfaces all in good condition; no signs of settlement, erosion, etc.
- Some areas adjacent to gravel surfaces void of vegetation (may be due to vehicle traffic/parking); need to discuss future use of this area with City.

3. Fencing / Gates / Access Controls *(Note any physical changes since last inspection; note overall condition and integrity, evidence of unauthorized access, etc.)*

- All perimeter fencing in good condition; no issues
- Access Gate has been re-located within Access Road Area to be closer to Ballfield Area

4. Other Observations *(Confirm that repair/maintenance measures identified during prior inspection have been performed; note any other general observations)*

- Portions of Access Road Area contain soil, stone, debris stockpiles.
- See attached photographs for further information.

III. FOLLOW-UP MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR ACTIVITIES

Erosional gully noted along southern fenceline of Ballfield Area was repaired and re-seeded by GE on December 2, 2005.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE

Photographs 1-3: Construction-In-Progress of Ballfield Dugout Structures



Photo #1: 3rd Base Dugout. Partial Concrete Slab/Wall Installation (11/18/05)



Photo #2: 1st Base Dugout. Excavation in Advance of Dugout Construction. Note approximate excavation depth (12 inches) and standing water (11/18/05)



Photo #3: 1st Base Dugout. Excavation in Advance of Dugout Construction. Note approximate excavation depth (12 inches) and standing water (11/18/05)

Photographs 4-5: Other Changes in Physical Features of City Recreational Area



Photo #4: Playground Equipment Installation in Northeast Corner of Ballfield Area (11/18/05)



Photo #5: City Material Stockpile in Southwest Corner of Access Road Area (11/18/05)

Photographs 6-8: Surface Cover / Vegetation Observations



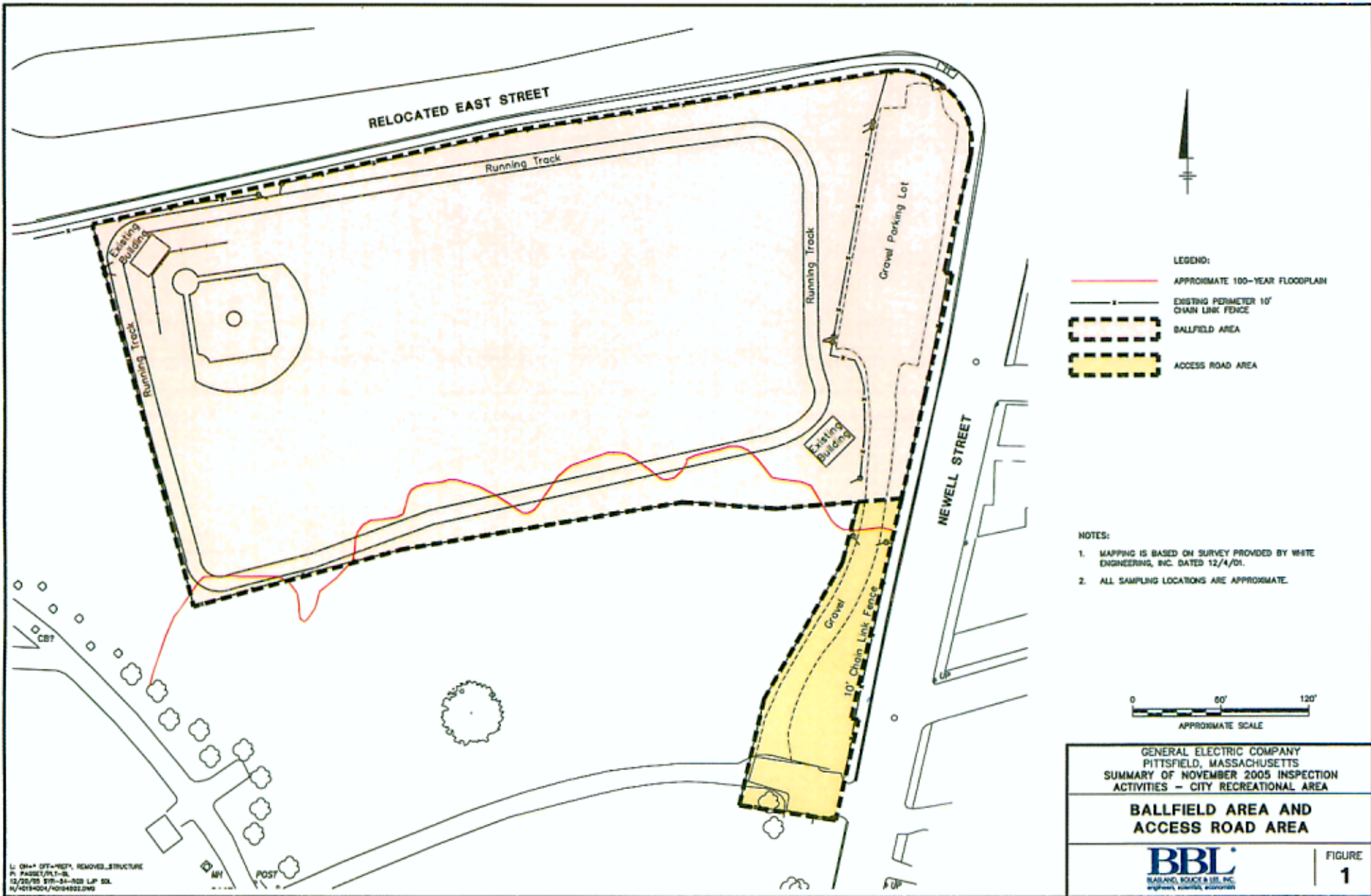
Photo #6: Erosion Gully with Soil Cover Area Along Southern Fenceline of Ballfield Area
Note Soil Deposit on Far Side of Fenceline (11/18/05)



Photo #7: Absence of Vegetative Cover East of Gravel Access Road. Note Access Road is Adjacent to Fenceline in Upper Right Corner of Photo (11/18/05)



Photo #8: Absence of Vegetative Cover East of Gravel Parking Area (11/18/05)



RELOCATED EAST STREET

Running Track

Existing Building

Running Track

Running Track

Gravel Parking Lot





NEWELL STREET

Existing Building

Gravel
10' Chain Link Fence



LEGEND:

-  APPROXIMATE 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN
-  EXISTING PERIMETER 10' CHAIN LINK FENCE
-  BALLFIELD AREA
-  ACCESS ROAD AREA

NOTES:

1. MAPPING IS BASED ON SURVEY PROVIDED BY WHITE ENGINEERING, INC. DATED 12/4/01.
2. ALL SAMPLING LOCATIONS ARE APPROXIMATE.



GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
SUMMARY OF NOVEMBER 2005 INSPECTION
ACTIVITIES - CITY RECREATIONAL AREA

**BALLFIELD AREA AND
ACCESS ROAD AREA**



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