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

RECEIVED

March 27, 2000

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Mr. John Ciampa
Corporate Environmental Programs
General Electric Company
100 Woodlawn Avenue
Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201

BERKSHIRE
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

**RE: Conditional Approval of GE's March 15, 2000 submittal entitled DNAPL
Investigation at Newell Street II Area, Plant Site 1 Groundwater Management Area;
GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site**

On March 15, 2000, General Electric (GE) submitted the above-referenced document to EPA and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). This report is subject to the terms and conditions specified in the Consent Decree that was lodged in District Court on October 7, 1999 (the "Consent Decree"). Pursuant to Paragraph 73(b) of the Consent Decree, EPA, after consulting with the Massachusetts DEP, approves the above-referenced submittal subject to the following conditions:

1. The second and third sentences of the first paragraph on page 2 are potentially contradictory. The purpose of the investigation is to install wells into the extensive underlying till layer which is present at approximately 945 feet above mean sea level. The top of this till layer is the location where the DNAPL recovery yields are most likely to be greatest. Therefore, even if DNAPL is observed at shallow confining layers (e.g., peat, silt, etc.) located above the underlying till layer, GE shall continue with the boring down to the underlying till layer, and the wells shall be installed at the top of till.
2. The purpose of the recovery tests is to determine if an automated DNAPL collection is feasible and appropriate at these wells and to determine sustainable yields. Therefore, GE shall ensure that sufficient information is obtained to allow for GE to include in their subsequent submittal the design of an automated DNAPL collection system(s), if appropriate, and the schedule for the installation and start-up of the collection system(s).
3. Based on our discussions, GE will begin the installation of the borings/wells the week of April 3, 2000 and will submit the required follow-up report to EPA by May 22, 2000.

EPA's approval of this submittal does not preclude EPA from requiring additional investigations and response activities pursuant to the Consent Decree and/or the *Statement of Work for Removal*

Actions Outside the River (Appendix E to the Consent Decree) in the future. Furthermore, in the event the Consent Decree does not get entered by the Court, EPA reserves the right to require additional investigations and response activities pursuant to its statutory and regulatory authorities reserved under the Consent Decree including, but not limited to, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA") and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA").

If you have any questions, please contact me at (617) 918-1282.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Tagliaferro", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dean Tagliaferro
On-Scene Coordinator

cc: Andrew T. Silfer, P.E., GE
Andrew J. Thomas, Jr. GE
J. Lyn Cutler, MA DEP
John Ziegler, MA DEP
Tim Conway, US EPA
Mike Nalipinski, US EPA
Bryan Olson, US EPA
Holly Inglis, EPA
Dawn Veilleux, Roy F. Weston
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