

01-0801

SDMS 278252



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

November 10, 2004

Mr. Andrew T. Silber  
Corporate Environmental Programs  
General Electric Company  
100 Woodlawn Avenue  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

Via Electronic and U.S. Mail

Re: Conditional Approval of General Electric's Groundwater Management Area 5  
Groundwater Quality Interim Report for Spring 2004  
GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Silber:

This letter contains the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) conditional approval of General Electric's *Groundwater Management Area 5 Groundwater Quality Interim Report for Spring 2004* (Report), submitted on July 30, 2004. The Report 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.

Pursuant to Paragraph 73 of the CD, EPA, after consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP), approves the Report subject to the conditions presented below.


1. EPA notes that the groundwater elevation contour presented in the report (Figure 3) omitted two important data points: the elevation of the bed of the river below the temporary dam (also missing from the figure) and the elevation of the surface water impounded behind the temporary dam. Applying groundwater elevations recorded at these two locations may have modified the groundwater flow contours depicted in Figure 3. It is EPA's position that the groundwater contours presented in this report may not represent baseline conditions. Therefore, due to the influence of EPA's temporary dam on groundwater flow at Groundwater Management Area 5, GE shall utilize surface water elevations on the upstream side and riverbed elevations on the downstream side of the dam when preparing future groundwater elevation contour maps for the semi-annual monitoring events. In addition, GE shall postpone the next round of groundwater sampling until subsequent groundwater elevation monitoring events demonstrate that groundwater flow is not being artificially influenced by the temporary dam that is being maintained as part of the remediation along the 1 ½ Mile Reach of the Housatonic River.
2. GE shall continue to perform semi-annual groundwater elevation monitoring in accordance

with the schedule presented in the Report. However, GE may propose modifications to this schedule based on information regarding the current status of the temporary dam and the influence that the dam may have on baseline conditions.

EPA reserves its right to perform additional sampling in the areas subject to the interim monitoring program 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) 918-1240.

Sincerely,



William P. Lovely Jr.  
Remedial Project Manager  
GE/Housatonic River Project

cc: Richard Gates, GE  
Michael Carroll, GE  
Rod McLaren, GE  
Susan Steenstrup, MDEP  
Anna Symington, MDEP  
Robert Bell, MDEP  
Thomas Angus, MDEP  
Dean Tagliaferro, EPA  
Holly Inglis, EPA  
Rose Howell, EPA  
Tim Conway, EPA  
John Kilborn, EPA  
K.C. Mitkevicius, ACOE  
James Bieke, Goodwin Procter

James Nuss, BB&L  
John Ciampa, SPECTRA  
Teresa Bowers, Gradient  
Property Owner- Parcel I8-23-6/19-5-1  
Property Owner- Parcel I8-23-9  
Property Owner- Parcel I8-23-10  
Mayor James Ruberto, City of Pittsfield  
Thomas Hickey, Director, PEDDA  
Jeffrey Bernstein, Bernstein, Cushner & Kimmel  
Pittsfield Commissioner of Public Health  
Nancy E. Harper, MA AG  
Dale Young, MA EOE  
Linda Palmieri, Weston Solutions  
Public Information Repositories