



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

November 16, 2006

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

Via Electronic and U.S. Mail

Re: Approval of General Electric's *July 28, 2006* submittal titled *Groundwater Quality Monitoring Interim Report for Spring 2006, Groundwater Management Area 5, GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.*

Dear Mr. Silfer:

This letter contains the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) conditional approval of General Electric's *Groundwater Management Area 5 Groundwater Quality Monitoring Report for Spring 2006* (Report) submitted on July 28, 2006. 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), conditionally approves the Report subject to the following conditions.

1. As shown on the groundwater hydrographs presented in Appendix B of the Report, the presence of the temporary dam has influenced the groundwater elevations at several of the GMA 5 monitoring wells. Further, although not referenced in hydrographs, the placement of sheet piling along the down-gradient boundary of GMA 5 during the spring of 2003 has also likely influenced groundwater elevations at several of the GMA 5 monitoring wells. Because two of the baseline monitoring events- the spring 2003 and fall 2003 events, respectively- were performed while the sheet piling and temporary dam were in place, EPA questions the representativeness of the baseline monitoring data for the third and fourth monitoring events. GE shall perform a fifth baseline monitoring event during fall 2006 following the same sampling protocols and analyzing for the same analytical constituents used for the previous baseline monitoring events to confirm that baseline conditions have been established for GMA 5. The analytical results of samples collected from well GMA 5-7 for VOC analysis in October may be utilized as part of the fall 2006 baseline sampling event. The results of this fifth monitoring event shall be evaluated and presented in the

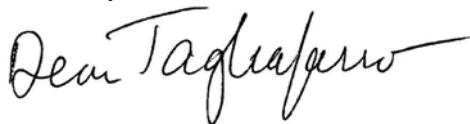
Baseline Assessment Final Report and Long-Term Monitoring Program Proposal for GMA 5.

2. Groundwater Management Area 5 (GMA-5) falls entirely within the boundary of the Former Oxbows A & C Removal Action Area (RAA). Given that the soil related Removal Actions at this RAA were completed in October 2006, GE, in accordance with the Consent Decree, including but not limited to Technical Attachment H of Appendix E, shall submit the Baseline Assessment Final Report and Long-Term Monitoring Program Proposal 75 days after the baseline field investigation program is completed (i.e., within 75 days after GE's receipt of laboratory results for the fall 2006 monitored event scheduled for November 2006).

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 (413) 236-0969.

Sincerely,



Dean Tagliaferro

cc: Rich Fisher, EPA
Holly Inglis, EPA
Rose Howell, EPA
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John Kilborn, EPA
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Thomas Hickey, Director, PED
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& Kimmel
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Dale Young, MA EOE
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Theresa Bowers, Gradient