



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1

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BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

04-0158
JDMS 37819

November 19, 2002

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

Via Electronic and U.S. Mail

Re: Comments on General Electric's 26 June 2002 *Pre-Design Investigation Work Plan for the Former Oxbow Areas J and K Removal Action*, General Electric/Housatonic River Project Site, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Silfer:

This letter contains the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) conditional approval of the pre-design investigation activities described in the above-referenced *Pre-Design Investigation Work Plan for the Former Oxbow Areas J and K Removal Action* (Work Plan). The Work Plan 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 above-referenced submittal subject to the following conditions:

General Conditions

1. In Subsection 4.4.3, the spacing between data points along the length of the utility corridor should be in the range of 100 to 150 feet and of an appropriate depth to reflect the vertical location of the utility. GE's proposed PCB sampling of utility corridors identified in Figure 4 does not indicate the depth of the subsurface utilities that are identified in the Work Plan, and, in Paragraph 4, GE indicates that additional information shall be provided to complete the inventory of subsurface utilities as part of the Work Plan. In an Addendum to this Work Plan GE shall provide a proposal for sampling the utility bands.

As part of the utility characterization component of the Addendum GE shall include RAA15-D3 as a subsurface boring to evaluate the utility corridor, if necessary based upon identifying the depth of the utility.

2. EPA has evaluated how the activities proposed in the Work Plan will serve to characterize PCBs in streets that have not been developed and right-of-ways (ROWs) for proposed streets (both designated as "paper streets" for the purposes of this conditional approval letter). These paper streets include Longview Terrace and the Zeno Street ROW in the Oxbow J area, and the Parkside Avenue ROW in the Oxbow K area. GE shall comply with following

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requirements for relocating samples and/or changing surface soil samples to subsurface borings to better characterize PCBs in soil at these areas.

- i. The Longview Terrace "paper street" shall be evaluated as a single averaging area.
 - ii. The Zeno Street ROW shall be evaluated by extending the boundaries of the adjacent parcels (K10-13-1, K10-11-1, and K10-12-1) to the centerline of the Zeno Street ROW.
 - iii. The Parkside Avenue ROW shall be evaluated by extending the boundaries of the adjacent parcels (K10-10-3, K10-10-4, K10-10-5, and K10-10-33) to the centerline of the Parkside Avenue ROW. As a consequence, the boundaries of the spatial averaging areas for Parcels K10-10-3 and K10-10-5 will extend beyond the boundary of the RAA, as depicted in GE figures.
 - iv. The following six additional surficial soil samples and two additional subsurface samples shall be added in these averaging areas to adequately characterize soil for PCBs: surficial sample RAA15-L8 on Parcel K10-10-3; surficial samples RAA15-K8.5, -I10, -GH12, -H12, and -GH13 on Parcel K10-10-5; and subsurface samples RAA5-J9 and -H11 on Parcel K10-10-5 (replacing previously proposed surficial samples due to the change in sampling requirements in the expanded averaging area for Parcel K10-10-5).
3. GE shall modify the proposed Appendix IX+3 sampling of the non-residential portions of the RAA as follows:

0- to 1-foot depth interval

- Parcel K10-12-1 – Resample for dioxins/furans at existing location J-4S.
- Parcel K10-10-4 – Only two sample locations are proposed for characterizing this averaging area. GE shall replace the sample proposed at location RAA15-H21 with one collected from location RAA15-G13.

1- to 3-foot depth interval

- Parcel K10-10-4 – GE shall collect an additional sample at relocated boring RAA15-J9.
- Parcel K10-10-3 – GE shall relocate proposed sample RAA15-J8 to RAA15-J6, to provide better distribution of Appendix IX+3 samples.

3- to 6-foot, 6- to 10-foot and 10- to 15-foot sampling depth intervals

- Longview Terrace – GE shall relocate RAA15-F2 (3- to 6-foot interval) to RAA15-G2, and RAA15-J2 (3- to 6-foot) to RAA15-E1, to provide better distribution of samples in this "paper street" averaging area.
- Parcel K10-11-1 – GE shall relocate the samples proposed at location RAA15-C4 (6- to 10-foot interval) to location RAA15-E6, and the samples proposed at location RAA15-E4 (6- to 10-foot interval) to location RAA15-F7. In order to maintain horizontal distribution of samples, GE shall also relocate the sample proposed for the 3- to 6-foot interval at location RAA15-E6 to location RAA15-C4.
- Parcel K10-11-2 – GE shall relocate the sample proposed at location RAA15-A11 (10- to 15-foot interval) to location RAA15-C11.
- Parcel K10-11-5 – GE shall relocate the following samples for better distribution within the parcel: RAA15-C22 (3- to 6-foot and 10- to 15-ft depth intervals) to

GE shall submit an Addendum to the Work Plan within 45 days of the date of this conditional approval letter addressing the comments included in this letter.

If there is any conflict between the Performance Standards as described in the Work Plan and as set forth in the Consent Decree and/or Statement of Work for Removal Actions Outside the River (Appendix E to the Consent Decree), the Statement of Work shall control. EPA reserves its right to perform additional sampling in the areas subject to Proposal and/or require additional sampling or response actions, if necessary, pursuant to the Consent Decree.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (617) 918-1268.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Nalipinski
GE Facility Project Manager

cc: John Novotny, GE
Richard Gates, GE
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