



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

May 12, 2005

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

Via Electronic and U.S. Mail

Re: Conditional Approval of General Electric's submittal titled "*Final Removal Design/ Removal Action Work Plan for Newell Street IP*", GE - Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Silfer:

This letter provides the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) conditional approval of the above referenced "*Final Removal Design/ Removal Action Work Plan for Newell Street IP*" (Work Plan) dated March 2005. 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 which are presented below.

1. Certain removal elevations presented in Technical Drawing 3 of the Work Plan appear to be inconsistent with the proposed removal depths in the Conceptual RD/RA Work Plan. For example, the first bullet on Page 4-3 of the Work Plan indicates that Condition No. 2(a) of EPA's November 4, 2004 conditional approval letter is being met by increasing the depth of soil removal associated with RAA13-F91 to a depth of 5 feet within Utility Area 2. However, as depicted on Technical Drawing 3, the proposed removal elevation in this area is 979 feet above mean sea level (amsl), while the ground surface elevation within this area varies from 980 feet amsl to 984 amsl. GE shall explain how removal elevations were established during the development of the Work Plan to correspond to the depths specified in the Conceptual RD/RA Work Plan.
2. In addition to the information provided in Attachment D of the Work Plan, GE shall provide EPA with an expanded discussion of how it reached the conclusion that approximately 6,270 cubic yards of flood storage would be lost as a result of the installation of the engineered barriers shown on Technical Drawings 5B and 6B. The discussion shall also describe where within the 100-year floodplain GE is considering

offsetting the loss of flood storage capacity within Newell Street Area II.

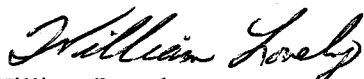
3. As described in Section 5.7 of the Work Plan, GE is required to implement a number of natural resource restoration/ enhancement activities at the GE Newell Street parking lot area. The Natural Resource Trustees provided comments on these activities in a letter dated April 25, 2005. GE shall review these comments upon receipt and respond to the Trustees, as appropriate.
4. Section 7.5.7 of the Work Plan discusses potential modifications to the DNAPL collection system. On March 16, 2005, GE submitted a letter to EPA describing the proposed modifications to the DNAPL collection system. EPA provided comments on these proposed modifications in a letter dated May 2, 2005. GE shall review these comments upon receipt and respond to EPA, as described in the letter.

GE shall provide a letter response to comments 1 and 2 within two weeks of the date of this letter. No response to comments 3 and 4 is necessary.

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 Consent Decree and Statement of Work shall control. EPA reserves its right to perform additional sampling and/or require additional sampling or Response Actions, if necessary, to meet the requirements of the Consent Decree.

Please contact me at (617) 918-1240 if you have any questions regarding this approval.

Sincerely,



William Lovely
GE Facility Project Manager

cc: Tim Conway, EPA
John Kilborn, EPA
Rose Howell, EPA
Dean Tagliaferro, EPA
Holly Inglis, EPA
K.C. Mitkevicius, ACOE
Susan Steenstrup, MDEP
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