



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

September 14, 2005

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

Via Electronic and U.S. Mail

Re: Newell Street Area II: Geophysical Survey Proposal and Discussions,
GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Silber:

This letter is in response to GE's September 6, 2005 Proposal for a Geophysical Survey (Survey) at Parcel J9-23-8, and subsequent discussions between EPA and GE regarding this matter. This Survey 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.

1. GE shall expand the scope of the Survey to include all areas west of the Western Mass. Electric Property for which soil excavation is planned in the Final Removal Design/Removal Action Work Plan for Newell Street Area II, except for Parcel I9-7-1.
2. With respect to the particular geophysical techniques and subsequent intrusive investigations, GE shall further discuss with EPA and MDEP the proposed survey procedures including, but not limited to, the sequencing of the geophysical survey and the number of test pits/visual inspections that will follow the survey.
3. Based on the results of the survey, GE shall discuss with EPA and MDEP the scope of the subsequent intrusive investigations (e.g., test pits) to further assess the nature of any subsurface anomalies that could potentially constitute buried drums, transformers, or capacitors and thereafter, the appropriate response actions to address such objects.
4. Regarding all liquid-filled containers, including but not limited to drums, transformers and capacitors, encountered during any work in this area, GE shall remove and dispose of

all such containers at a permitted off-site facility. However, if GE believes that circumstances relating to any identified containers warrant a method other than removal, GE may propose such alternative method to EPA for review and approval.

5. GE shall make best efforts to notify EPA in advance of any intrusive work where buried drums may be encountered.

This approval of geophysical survey activities at the above-referenced areas does not constitute any agreement by EPA regarding any other portions of the Newell Street Area II removal action area, or other portion of the GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site. Also, with respect to all areas, including the geophysical survey area, EPA reserves all rights it has regarding activities other than approved herein including, but not limited to, its right to perform additional investigation activities and/or require additional investigation activities 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.
GE Facility Project Manager

cc:

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