



SDMS: 287034
08-0053

Corporate Environmental Programs
General Electric Company
100 Woodlawn Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201

November 10, 1999

Mr. Dean Tagliaferro
US Environmental Protection Agency
One Congress Street, Suite 1100
Boston, MA 02114-2023

Ms. Susan Steenstrup
Department of Environmental Protection
436 Dwight Street
Springfield, MA 01103

**Re: Upper 1/2-Mile Reach of Housatonic River Removal Action
Monthly Report - October 1999**

Dear Mr. Tagliaferro and Ms. Steenstrup:

In accordance with the approved Removal Action Work Plan - Upper 1/2 Mile Reach of Housatonic River, enclosed please find the October 1999 Monthly Report.

Please call with any questions.

Yours truly,

Andrew T. Silfer, P.E.
Senior Technical Manager

cc: J.R. Bieke, Esquire, Shea & Gardner
R. Cavagnero, EPA
M.T. Carroll, GE
R. Goff, ACOE
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S. Messur, BBL
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A.J. Thomas, Esquire, GE
A. Weinberg, DEP

**Upper ½ Mile Removal Action
Monthly Progress Report: October 1999**

1.0 Background:

The Upper ½ Mile Removal Action began in October 1999 after the Consent Decree was lodged on October 7, 1999. Pre-construction activities began the week ending 10/15/99.

Prior to this time GE and Maxymillian Technologies Inc. (MTI) completed a number of pre-mobilization activities which included submission of MTI's Health and Safety Plan, MTI's Operations Plan, MTI's Flood Contingency Plan, and the Air Monitoring Plan. EPA reviewed and approved the documents with the exception of the Health and Safety Plan.

2.0 Chronological Description of the Tasks Performed:

In the month of October, three weeks of construction activity took place. The first regularly scheduled project status meeting was held on Monday 10/25/99 and will continue to be held on a weekly basis.

In general, work completed in the weeks ending 10/15/99 and 10/22/99 included tree and brush removal between the Newell Street Bridge and the beginning of the East Street Area 2 source control sheetpiling approximately 250 feet downstream. Following tree and brush removal, erosion control measures (silt fence and hay bales) were installed along the top and bottom of the north riverbank as appropriate.

During the week ending 10/29/99, the stockpiled trees and brush were chipped for appropriate disposal. Additional pre-construction activities included installation of two settling tanks near Building 68 and a 6-inch pipeline from the Newell Street Bridge to the location of the settling tanks and to GE's Bldg. 64G for water treatment.

3.0 Number of Samples Collected:

In the month of October, two baseline air monitoring tests were performed. The results are attached to this report as Table 1. The PCB ambient air concentrations were all well below the project notification level.

4.0 Diagrams Associated with the Tasks Performed:

No diagrams are applicable in October

**Upper ½ Mile Removal Action
Monthly Progress Report: October 1999**

5.0 Identification of Reports Received or Prepared:

No formal reports were submitted in the month of October 1999. Meeting summaries from various project meetings were submitted to EPA. Construction material specifications were submitted to the EPA for informational purposes. See Section 1 for project documentation submitted to the EPA prior to the month of October.

6.0 Photo Documentation of activities performed:

See attached Figure 1.

7.0 Brief description of activities to be performed in November 1999:

During the month of November, the following activities are estimated to take place:

- Installation of temporary access roads, as needed;
- Mobilization of sheetpiling equipment and materials;
- Installation of silt curtain / turbidity barrier;
- Completion of the water handling system including all pumps, pipes, valves and tanks;
- Implementation of air and water column monitoring as described in the Work Plan;
- Install sheetpiling below the Newell Street Bridge approximately 450 feet in length (Figure 4-1 of the Work Plan);
- Dewater the first cell "A", along the north bank, directly downstream from the Newell Street Bridge; and
- Initiate sediment removal activities in the cell "A".

No construction activities are scheduled for Thursday or Friday 11/25 and 11/26 in observation of the Thanksgiving holiday.

8.0 Attachments to this Report

- Table 1 – Baseline Air Monitoring Results
- Figure 1 - Photograph Description Sheet

**OCTOBER 1999 PCB AMBIENT AIR CONCENTRATIONS
1/2 MILE REMOVAL ACTION
PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

TABLE 1

Date	BM-1 ug/m³	AM-1 ug/m³	AM-2 ug/m³	AM-3 ug/m³	AM-3 co-located ug/m³	AM-4 ug/m³
10/13 -10/14/99 ¹	0.0034	0.0016	0.0011	0.0051	0.0053	0.0028
10/14 - 10/15/99 ¹	0.0005	0.0004	0.0003	0.0015	0.0016	0.0011
Notification Level	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05

Notes:

¹ Baseline sampling event.

BM-1: Background monitoring location west of Bldg 42.

AM-1: Air monitoring location east of Bldg 64V, near current work/staging area, northeast bank.

AM-2: Air monitoring location near tennis courts within Lakewood Park, southeast bank.

AM-3: Air monitoring location north bank, north of Bldg 64W. This location is also a co-located site

AM-4: Air monitoring location south bank, at 261 Newell St. behind building formerly known as F.W. Webb

**½ MILE RIVER REMOVAL ACTION
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT
OCTOBER 1999
FIGURE 1 PHOTO DOCUMENTATION**

PHOTO NUMBER: 1

PHOTO LOCATION:
Looking east towards Newell Street Bridge.

PHOTO DESCRIPTION: North Bank.
Prior to fence, tree, and brush removal.

PHOTO DATE: 10/14/99



PHOTO NUMBER: 2

PHOTO LOCATION:
Looking west (downstream)

PHOTO DESCRIPTION: North Bank.
After trees and brush were removed.
Prior to chipping of vegetation.

PHOTO DATE: 10/22/99



PHOTO NUMBER: 3

PHOTO LOCATION:
Looking east (upstream) towards Bridge.

PHOTO DESCRIPTION: North Bank.
After clearing operations were complete.
Erosion control measures installed along bank.

PHOTO DATE: 10/29/99

