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

December 9, 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 - November 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 November 1999 Monthly Report.

Please call with any questions.

Yours truly,

William Horne / for

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

cc: J.R. Bieke, Esquire, Shea & Gardner
M.T. Carroll, GE
T. Conway, EPA
R. Goff, ACE
W.A. Horne, GE
H. Inglis, EPA
J.H. Maxymillian, Maxymillian Technologies
S. Messur, BBL
K.C. Mitkevicius, USACE
T. O'Brien, MA EOEA
B. Olson, EPA
A.J. Thomas, Esquire, GE
A. Weinberg, DEP

1.0 Background:

Progress continued on the Upper ½ Mile Reach Removal Action through November 1999. Maxymillian Technologies completed all mobilization activities and began work on cell A (the upstream most cell on the north side of the river). Project status meeting were held regularly on Mondays including 11/1, 11/8, 11/15, 11/22, and 11/29

2.0 Chronological description of the tasks performed:

Early in the month of November, the water handling system was completed, which included a number of different size pumps, 2 settling tanks, a 6 inch piping network from the work area to the settling tanks and piping from the settling tanks to the water treatment facility (Bldg. 64G). Upon completion of various temporary access roads and work areas, the removal/restoration activities began.

Refer to the diagram (Exhibit A) referenced in section 4.0 and attached to this report for an orientation of the sheetpile cells and their respective location progressing downstream along the river. Cell A was the first cell to be subject to removal/restoration activities, which include the following general sequence of events:

- sheetpile installation;
- de-watering and sealing of leaks;
- layout of excavation limits;
- sediment and bank removal of material;
- verification of excavation limits;
- restoration activities with verification of placement limits; and,
- removal of sheetpiling.

At the end of this reporting period, excavation and sediment removal activities were beginning in cell A. Excavated material is being stored temporarily in Bldg. 65.

A significant rain event occurred on 11/26/99, when 2.8 inches of rain fell in a very short period of time. The resulting water surface elevation of the river increased substantially as did the water elevation inside cell A. However, the river did not overtop the sheetpile and all water contained within cell A was handled and treated via Bldg. 64G.

During the excavation operations within cell A, a minor localized oil sheen was observed on November 19, 1999. An oil absorbent boom was deployed and GE promptly reported this observation to the MDEP, EPA, EPA Region 1 Spill Response, and the National Response Center.

3.0 Number of samples collected:

In the month of November, particulate air monitoring results were collected from 11/08/99 to 11/30/99 and PCB air monitoring results were collected on 11/23/99 – 11/24/99. These results are attached to this report (refer to Table 1A for particulate results and Table 1B for PCB results). Water column monitoring for total suspended solids (TSS) was conducted on a daily basis. Water column PCB samples were collected once every 2 weeks. The TSS and PCB results, received to date, for the month of November, are attached to this report (Table 2). The PCB results from 11/23/99 will be reported next month. Table 3 includes PCB and TPH results from the isolation layer material sampling.

4.0 Diagrams associated with the tasks performed:

A diagram labeled as **Exhibit A** shows the location of the cells (A, B, C, D and E) and is attached to this report for reference.

5.0 Identification of any reports received and prepared:

During the month of November 1999, meeting summaries from various status meetings were submitted to the EPA MDEP and EOEA. Additionally, construction material specifications were submitted to the EPA. An estimated project-planning timetable for work through January 2000 was submitted to all agencies for informational purposes only. For work completed in October 1999, monthly reports, as required by the Consent Decree and the ½ Mile River Removal Action, were submitted on November 10, 1999.

6.0 Photo documentation of activities performed:

See attached page (Figure 1)

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

Throughout the upcoming weeks in the month of December, the following activities are estimated to take place:

- Restoration activities for cell A will be completed;
- Removal and restoration activities in cell B are estimated to be completed;
- Air and water column monitoring will continue.

8.0 Attachments to this report:

- Table 1A - Particulate air monitoring results;
- Table 1B - PCB air monitoring results;
- Table 2 - Water column monitoring results (TSS and PCB);
- Table 3 – PCB and TPH results for isolation layer material sampling;
- Figure 1 - Photo documentation sheet; and,
- Exhibit A - Diagram to show the locations of cells within the upstream part of the Upper ½ Mile Reach Removal Action.

Ambient Particulate Air Data for
Table 1A
Pittsfield, MA
Housatonic River
1/2-Mile Removal Action

MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 1999

Date	Sampler Location	Average Site Concentration (mg/m^3)	BM1[1] (mg/m^3)	Average Period (Hours:Min)	Predominant Wind Direction
11/08/1999	AM2 (south side of river)	0.004	0.005	9:45	WNW
11/09/1999	AM2 (south side of river)	0.015	0.013	9:15	SSW
11/10/1999	AM2 (south side of river)	0.025	0.031	10:30	W
11/11/1999	AM2 (south side of river)	0.005	0.005	9:00	N
11/12/1999	AM2 (south side of river)	0.013	0.008	9:45	SSW
11/15/1999	AM2 (south side of river)	0.004	0.002	9:45	WNW
11/16/1999	AM2 (south side of river)	0.004	0.005	9:45	WNW
11/17/1999	AM2 (south side of river)	0.003	0.005	3:45[1]	WNW, NW
11/18/1999	AM2 (south side of river)	0.004	0.008	9:30	WSW, SW, SSW
11/19/1999	AM2 (south side of river)	0.020	0.020	10:30	S
11/22/1999	AM2 (south side of river)	0.015	0.017	10:30	SSW
11/23/1999	AM2 (south side of river)	0.014	0.017	1:00[1]	SSW
11/24/1999[2]	AM2 (south side of river)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
11/25/1999[3]	AM2 (south side of river)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
11/26/1999[3]	AM2 (south side of river)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
11/29/1999	AM2 (south side of river)	0.008	0.006	0:30[1]	WSW, WNW
11/30/1999	AM2 (south side of river)	0.004	0.004	8:15	N
Notification Level		0.120			

BM-1: Background monitoring location west of Bldg. 42.
AM-2: Air monitoring location near tennis courts within Lakewood Park, southeast bank.

[1] Sampling period was shortened due to instrument malfunction.

[2] Sampling was not performed due to precipitation/threat of precipitation.

[3] Sampling was not performed due to holiday.

Table 1B
PCB Air Monitoring Results
Month of November 1999

Date	BM-1 ug/m^3	AM-1 ug/m^3	AM-2 ug/m^3	AM-3 ug/m^3	AM-3 co-located ug/m^3	AM-4 ug/m^3
11/23 - 11/24/99	0.0056	0.0042	0.0023	0.0078	0.0082	0.0047
Notification Level	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05

Notes:

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 counts 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 fomerly known as F.W. Webb.

TABLE 2

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOVEMBER 1999

UPPER 1/2 MILE REACH REMOVAL ACTION
HOUSATONIC RIVER PCB/TSS/TURBIDITY MONITORING DURING CONSTRUCTION

Location	Date	Water Depth (ft)	Water Temp. (°C)	Flow (cfs)	Turbidity (ntu)			Sample ID	Total PCB Concentrations (ug/l)	Filtered PCB Concentrations (ug/l)	TSS (mg/l)
					High	Low	Daily Composite				
Upstream of Newell St. Bridge	11/08/1999	2.1	9	89	27	3	4	---	---	---	---
Downstream of Lyman St. Bridge	11/08/1999	3.0	9	94	8	2	4	---	---	---	---
Upstream of Newell St. Bridge	11/09/1999	2.0	9	90	10	3	5	---	---	---	---
Downstream of Lyman St. Bridge	11/09/1999	3.0	9	93	12	2	5	---	---	---	---
Upstream of Newell St. Bridge	11/10/1999	2.0	9	87	37	2	9	---	---	---	---
Downstream of Lyman St. Bridge	11/10/1999	3.0	9	100	16	2	5	---	---	---	---
Upstream of Newell St. Bridge	11/11/1999	2.1	9	101	26	4	32	HR-11-11-99-U1	0.0373	ND(0.0250)	28
Downstream of Lyman St. Bridge	11/11/1999	3.1	9	110	37	4	27	HR-11-11-99-D1	0.0929	ND(0.0250)	22
Upstream of Newell St. Bridge	11/12/1999	2.0	5.5	94	447	2	110	---	---	---	---
Downstream of Lyman St. Bridge	11/12/1999	3.0	5.5	96	380	3	81	---	---	---	---
Upstream of Newell St. Bridge	11/15/1999	1.9	5.5	66	61	2	18	---	---	---	---
Downstream of Lyman St. Bridge	11/15/1999	2.8	5	62	39	2	9	---	---	---	---
Upstream of Newell St. Bridge	11/16/1999	1.9	5.5	---	2	2	2	---	---	---	---
Downstream of Lyman St. Bridge	11/16/1999	2.8	5.5	---	3	2	2	---	---	---	---
Upstream of Newell St. Bridge	11/17/1999	1.9	5.5	50	2	1	2	---	---	---	---
Downstream of Lyman St. Bridge	11/17/1999	2.7	5.5	64	4	1	1	---	---	---	---
Upstream of Newell St. Bridge	11/18/1999	2	5.5	56	6	4	4	---	---	---	---
Downstream of Lyman St. Bridge	11/18/1999	2.8	5.5	51	6	2	5	---	---	---	---
Upstream of Newell St. Bridge	11/19/1999	1.8	5.5	55	9	2	4	---	---	---	---
Downstream of Lyman St. Bridge	11/19/1999	2.6	5.5	51	6	2	3	---	---	---	---

(See Notes on Page 2)

TABLE 2

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

NOVEMBER 1999

UPPER 1/2 MILE REACH REMOVAL ACTION
HOUSATONIC RIVER PCB/TSS/TURBIDITY MONITORING DURING CONSTRUCTION

Location	Date	Water Depth (ft)	Water Temp. (°C)	Flow (cfs)	Turbidity (ntu)			Sample ID	Total PCB Concentrations (ug/l)	Filtered PCB Concentrations (ug/l)	TSS (mg/l)
					High	Low	Daily Composite				
Upstream of Newell St. Bridge	11/22/1999	1.9	5.5	44	2	2	2	---	---	---	---
Downstream of Lyman St. Bridge	11/22/1999	2.7	5.5	48	4	2	3	---	---	---	---
Upstream of Newell St. Bridge	11/23/1999	2	6	48	9	1	7	HR-11-23-99-U1	NR	NR	NR
Downstream of Lyman St. Bridge	11/23/1999	2.65	6	56	5	0	4	HR-11-23-99-D1	NR	NR	NR
Upstream of Newell St. Bridge	11/24/1999	1.9	9	57	10	2	5	---	---	---	---
Downstream of Lyman St. Bridge	11/24/1999	2.6	9	60	20	2	6	---	---	---	---
Upstream of Newell St. Bridge	11/29/1999	2.9	5	139	71	3	20	---	---	---	---
Downstream of Lyman St. Bridge	11/29/1999	3.5	5	167	64	4	13	---	---	---	---
Upstream of Newell St. Bridge	11/30/1999	2.65	4.5	129	15	2	5	---	---	---	---
Downstream of Lyman St. Bridge	11/30/1999	3.3	4.5	134	11	3	4	---	---	---	---

Notes:

1. PCB and TSS samples were collected by Blasland, Bouck, & Lee, Inc. and analyzed by Northeast Analytical, Inc.
2. Water depth taken at sampling point (i.e. middle of river).
3. ft - Feet
4. °C - degrees Celsius
5. cfs - cubic feet per second
6. ntu - nephelometric turbidity units
7. --- - No data obtained
8. ND(0.25) - Compound was analyzed for but not detected at the quantitation limit indicated in parentheses.
9. NR - Not yet reported
10. ug/l - micrograms per liter
11. mg/l - milligrams per liter
12. [ ] - Duplicate sample result

TABLE 3

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

ISOLATION LAYER MATERIAL SAMPLING
PCB & TPH DATA RECEIVED DURING NOVEMBER 1999
UPPER 1/2 MILE REACH
(Results are presented in dry-weight parts per million, ppm)

Sample ID	Date Collected	Total PCBs	TPH
PSG-SOIL-1	11/19/99	ND(0.0591)	---
PSG-SOIL-2	11/19/99	ND(0.0568) [ND(0.0599)]	--- ---
PSG-SOIL-TPH	11/19/99	---	ND(100)

Notes:

1. Samples were collected by Blasland, Bouck & Lee, Inc. and submitted to Northeast Analytical Services, Inc. for analysis of PCBs and Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH).
2. ND(0.10) - Analyte was not detected. The value in parentheses is the associated detection limit.
3. --- - Not analyzed.
4. Blind duplicate results are presented in brackets.

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

PHOTO NUMBER: 1

PHOTO LOCATION:
Looking east towards Newell Street Bridge.

PHOTO DESCRIPTION: Sheetpiling installation in the river for cell A.

PHOTO DATE: 11/10/99

PHOTO NUMBER: 2

PHOTO LOCATION:
Looking west (downstream)

PHOTO DESCRIPTION: Cell A
Downstream portion during de-watering.

PHOTO DATE: 11/23/99

PHOTO NUMBER: 3

PHOTO LOCATION:
Looking southwest at cell A.

PHOTO DESCRIPTION:
De-watering cell A again after
2.8 inch rain event on 11/26 – 11/27

PHOTO DATE: 11/29/99

EXHIBIT A
UPPER ½ MILE REACH REMOVAL ACTION
LOCATION OF CELLS A, B, C, D and E FOR THE UPSREAM SECTION