



**United States Environmental Protection Agency
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912**

September 7, 2016

Mr. Richard W. Gates
Corporate Environmental Programs
General Electric Company
159 Plastics Avenue
Pittsfield, MA 01201

via Electronic and U.S. Mail

Re: Conditional Approval of General Electric's July 21, 2016 submittal titled *May 2016 Post-Remediation Inspection Report, East Street Area 2-North, East Street Area 2-South, On-plant Consolidation Areas, 1 ½ Mile Floodplain Properties, GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site*

Dear Mr. Gates:

This letter contains the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) conditional approval of the above-referenced *May 2016 Post-Remediation Inspection, East Street Area 2-North, East Street Area 2-South, On-plant Consolidation Areas, 1 ½ Mile Floodplain Properties* (the "Report"). The Inspection Report 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 Report subject to the following condition.

1. Section 2.4: The Report states that there were "several tree cages restricting the growth of the associated trees, but could not be removed at the time of the inspection." The Report also states that GE will continue to inspect the tree cages and will remove the tree cages as necessary depending on the condition of the cages and the tree growth. GE shall remove the cages that are restricting tree growth by September 30, 2016. In future inspections, GE shall flag tree cages that are damaged or restricting growth for removal. In future reports, GE shall identify in the text and in the Corrective Measures Tracking Sheet (Table 2 in this Report) a schedule for when corrective measures identified during an inspection shall be completed.

Additionally, EPA has identified several errors in the Report and provides them as follows:

1. Section 2.0, pg. 2, 1st paragraph, Avatar's representative name is misspelled, it should be Izabela not Izabella.

2. Section 2.1, pg. 3, 4th bullet, Area 4 location should be described as Building 9-D/9-F, not 9-B. This comment also applies to Section II-2 and Section III the inspection Form in Appendix A.
3. Section 2.3, pg 5, last paragraph, the text states that the western plateau/sideslope of Hill 78 OPCA is outside the NRRE area. This is incorrect. All of Hill 78 OPCA is in the NRRE area. The Building 71 cover area is outside the NRRE area.
4. Table 1
 - a. Phase 4C Floodplain Area- the inspection type column, the information given is incomplete.
 - b. The last 2 entries on the table, Dalton Ave and Commercial Street Site, are not subject to the Consent Decree or this Report. They are State-lead MCP sites.
5. Table 2
 - a. East Street Area 2-North, the observed maintenance items, the 2nd item should list former Building 9-B slab not 9-E, as the area where the saplings are to be removed.
 - b. East Street Area 2-South, Parcels subject to inspection, averaging areas should be listed as 4B, 4D and 4E. In this table, 4C is listed incorrectly instead of 4D.
 - c. East Street Area 2-South, next inspection should be listed as August or September 2016 not October 2016.
6. Table 3
 - a. Planting Area 1- Quaking Aspen, Avg. Height according to Appendix B, Table B-1 should be 5 ft. not 5.7 ft. as given.
 - b. Planting Area 9 – Box Elders, Height according to Appendix B, Table B-4 should be 4ft and not 6.0 ft. as given.
7. Figure 1: Figure 1 does not display all of the 1.5 Mile Floodplain Properties, including Group 4C Properties that are a subject of this inspection.
8. Figure 3: This figure is missing a label for Planting Area 9. Planting Area 9 is on the riverbank, south of Area 4E.
9. Figure 4: Planting Area 10 were not part of the May 2016 inspection and therefore does not need to be included on the figure, and Planting Area 11 and associated information (e.g., 3 quaking aspens subject to inspection), which does need to be on the figure, was omitted.
10. Figure 5
 - a. According to Appendix C and the text there were 9 woodchuck holes identified for repairs, while the Figure shows only 6 (item D7). GE later stated that there were an additional 9 woodchuck holes at the northwest D7 location.
 - b. The cypress spurge areas slated for treatment are not clearly displayed on the figure. There are 2 locations marked on the figure as D5, which according to Appendix C are a label designation for both the cypress spurge and for 2

trees identified for removal. The 2 locations marked as D5 indicate the 2 tree locations.

- c. In future reports, GE may report corrective measures, such as addressing woodchuck holes or treating cypress spurge, in a more general nature by describing and quantifying the activities done during the inspection period. The inspection reports shall include specific areas in the figures that have not already been identified through the ongoing maintenance process (for example, marked with flagging, or otherwise identified).

11. Appendix B: Section I, the date listed for the most recent inspection for the City Recreational Area is incorrect and should be given as September 2, 2015.

12. Photographs

- a. Photo 19 should be labeled as a repair between building 9D and 9F, not between 9B and 9F.

EPA's conditional approval of the Report shall not modify any other requirement or condition of the Consent Decree, the SOW, and/or any work plans or documents approved thereunder, except as expressly stated in the Report. EPA reserves all of its rights under the Decree, including but not limited to, the right to perform and/or require additional sampling, or response actions, if necessary, to meet the requirements of the Consent Decree.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (617) 918-1721.

Sincerely,



Richard Fisher
GE Facility Project Manager

cc:

Dean Tagliaferro, US EPA	Robert Leitch, USACE
Tim Conway, US EPA	Rod McLaren, GE
John Kilborn, US EPA	Karen Pelto, MDEP
Scott Campbell, Avatar	James Bieke, Sidley Austin
Director, Pittsfield Health Department	N. Harper, MA AG
Eva Tor, MDEP	Chris Ferry, ASRC Primus
M. Gorski, MDEP	
Jane Rothchild, MDEP	
John Ziegler, MDEP	

Corydon L. Thurston, Executive Director, PEDDA
Mayor Linda Tyer, City of Pittsfield
Nate Joyner, City of Pittsfield
Massachusetts Public Information Repositories