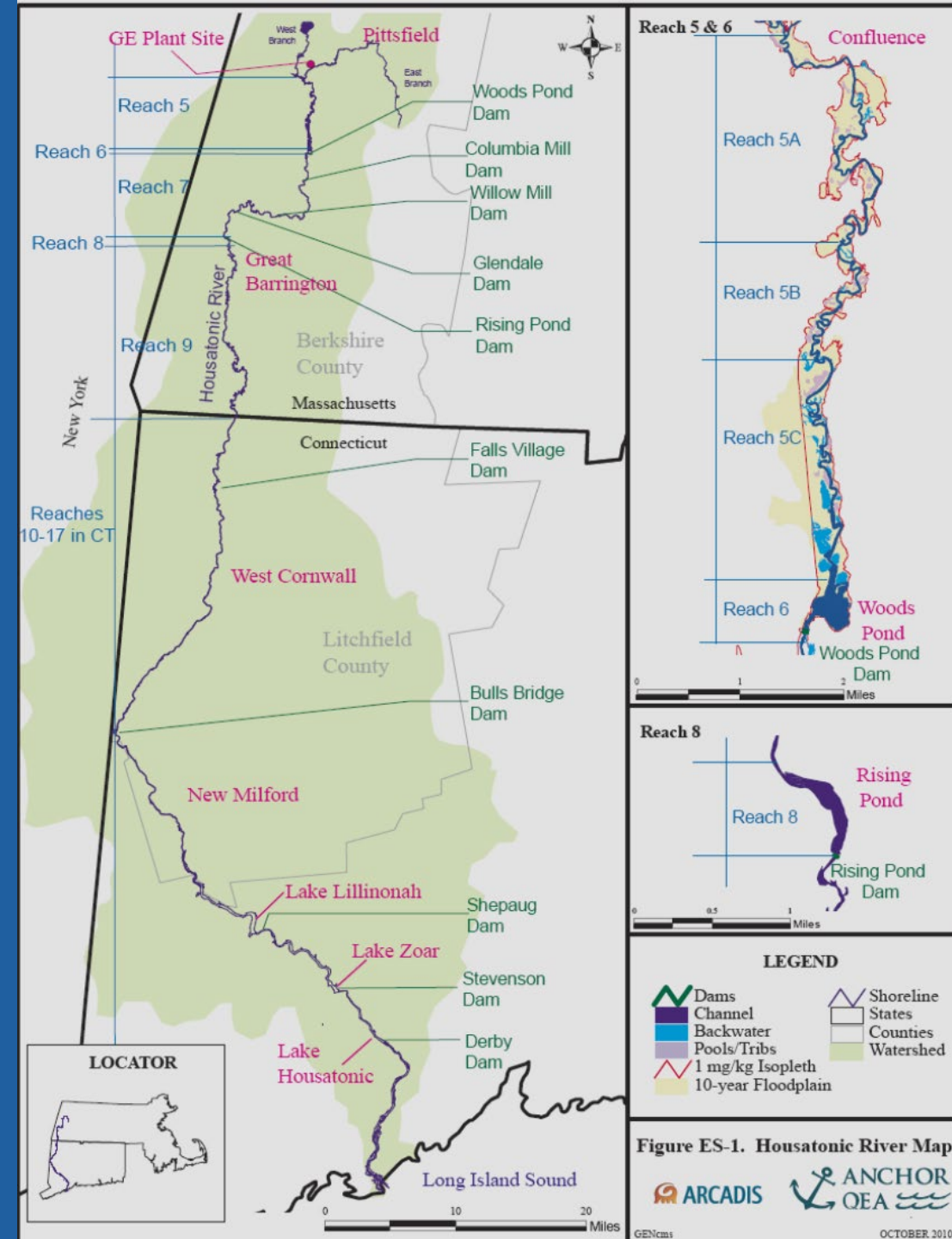


GE-Housatonic River Site Rest of River Cleanup Plan

Pittsfield Public Information Session

March 5, 2020

Herberg Middle School



Purpose

- Present overview of Pittsfield specific portions of Settlement Agreement
 - Provide information on the clean-up to occur in Pittsfield
 - Explain opportunities residents will have to participate in the clean-up process and steps being taken to minimize impact in residential areas
- Provide residents with opportunity to learn about settlement and ask questions

Ground Rules & Format

- Please be respectful, allow presenters & members of the public, when called on, to speak without interruption
- Please use cards to submit questions
 - Similar questions may be grouped together
 - If time allows individuals will be able to ask additional questions or make statements. Statements should be limited to 5 minutes.
- Meeting has been scheduled for 2 hours
 - There will be future opportunities for information sharing/input as work moves forward

Introductions & Agenda

- Presentation
 - EPA
 - BEAT
 - Mass Audubon
 - City
 - Jeff Cook
- Q&A
 - Submitted Questions
 - Public Comments & Additional Questions
 - Pittsfield Components Of Settlement Agreement
 - Other Elements of Settlement Agreement
- Next Steps

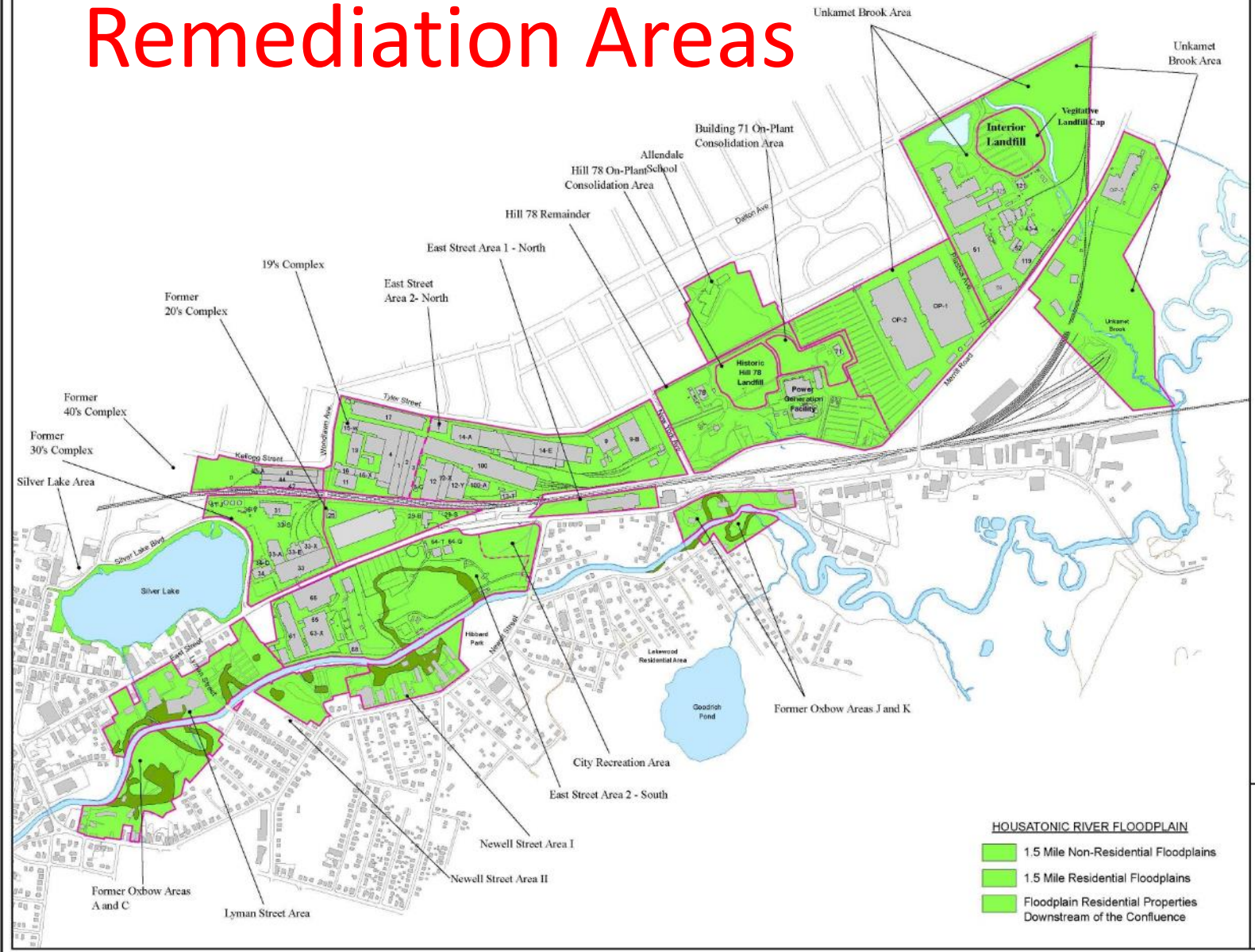


2000 Consent Decree

- Signed by EPA, US DOJ, Mass, CT, GE, City of Pittsfield and PEDDA
- 27 cleanup actions with prescribed remedies
- Cleanup of 200 residential properties
- Natural Resource Damage Settlement (\$15.6 M cash, \$6M in work)

- 20 Soil Cleanups
- 5 groundwater Actions
- Upper ½-Mile River Cleanup
- 1.5 Mile Reach River Cleanup

Remediation Areas





GE Site

Unkamet Brook

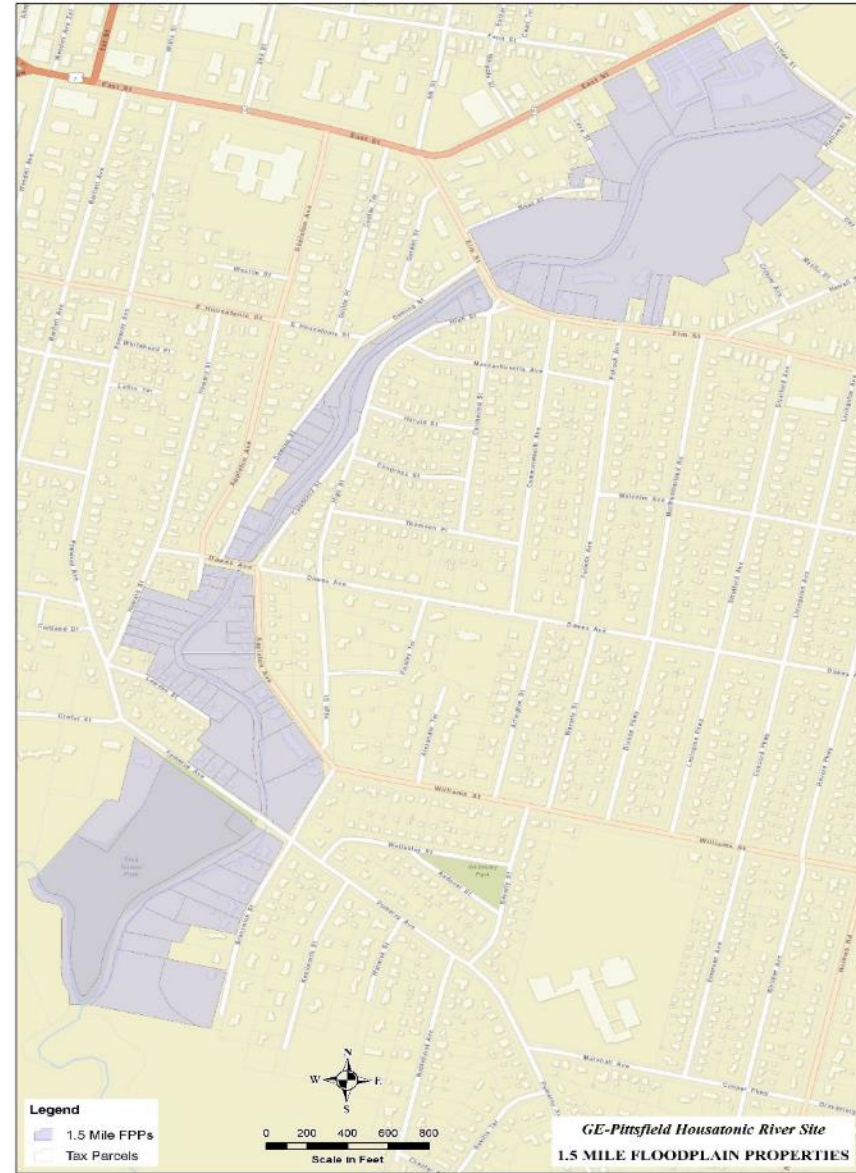
Silver Lake

Pittsfield, MA

Upper 1/2-Mile of Housatonic River

1.5 Mile Reach

- 1.5 Mile River and Floodplain Cleanup
- From Lyman Street to Confluence
- Ended at Fred Garner Park
- Reduced average PCB concentrations from 40 ppm to less than 1 ppm in top two feet.



Economic Development Package 2000 Consent Decree

- \$10,100,000 to City
- \$15,370,000 to PEDDA
- Demolition of buildings (estimated cost of \$35 M)
- Transfer of 52 acres of property from GE to PEDDA

2000 Economic Development Package (Cont.)

- Landscaping and construction of the ballfield and 99-year lease for Belanger Field
- 25-year lease to PEDDA for 4-acre Woodlawn Avenue Parking Lot
- 5-year lease for the PEDDA building—since extended indefinitely
- Estimated value of package \$60M to \$70M

Rest of River

Process

- 2000 Decree outlined process
- Peer-reviewed Investigations and feasibility studies conducted
- EPA issued Draft Permit (Cleanup Plan) in 2014
- After Public comment, issued Final Permit in 2016 (with out-of-state disposal)



Rest of River – Litigation

- 5 parties appealed the permit to EPA Environmental Appeals Board; Pittsfield filed a friend of the court brief
- EAB upheld remedy; remanded off-site disposal and future work
- EPA on two tracks
 - Response to remand
 - Mediated Settlement



EPA's Mediation Objectives

- High level material off-site
- More Cleanup
 - More PCBs out of the River and properties
- Protect human health and the environment
- Initiate design activities sooner

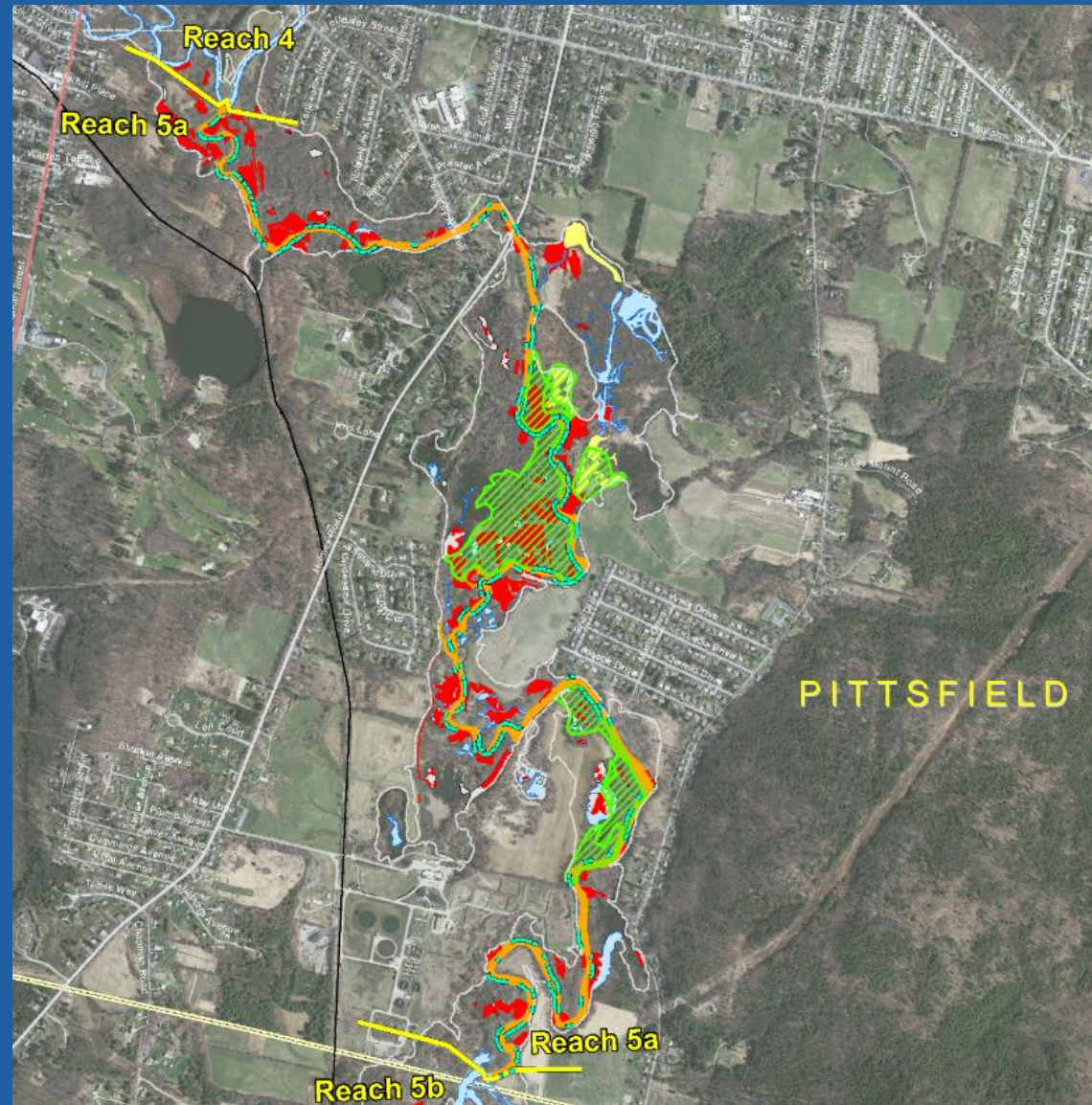
Hybrid Disposal Approach

- Highest concentration of PCBs to be sent out of State (minimum of 100,000 cubic yards).
- Lower concentrations of PCBs to be disposed of in a local, double lined, secure landfill in the vicinity of Woods Pond.
- Overall estimated average concentration of PCBs in local landfill to be 20 to 25 ppm.
- Requirements for air sampling, groundwater monitoring, and inspection and maintenance activities.

Permit (Cleanup) Improvements

Pittsfield Reach

- Additional cleanup on specific residential lands to eliminate need for use restrictions
- Additional cleanup at Canoe Meadows in trails and high use areas; mitigation requirements to allow for activities during remediation



Permit (Cleanup) Improvements

Riverbanks in Pittsfield:
review PCB concentrations
& erodibility; consider more
removal



More options for cleanup
of vernal pools



Permit (Cleanup) Improvements (Downstream of Pittsfield)

- Remove more contaminated sediment in 6 areas, primarily behind dams, to minimize capping of sediment
- Remove the Columbia Mill Dam and remnant of Eagle Mill Dam



Permit (Cleanup) Improvements

- GE required to prepare Quality of Life Plan addressing community health & safety, including noise, air, odor, light, traffic, etc
- Additional requirements to minimize impacts in residential neighborhoods
- Increased local participation in review of design documents including remediation Work Plans, Quality of Life Plan, and truck routes

Treatment Technology Research

- EPA commits to a continuing effort to identify opportunities to apply existing and potential future PCB treatment technologies
- EPA will solicit research opportunities for research institutions and/or small businesses to target relevant technologies
- GE and EPA will explore current and future technology developments and, where appropriate, will collaborate on on-site technology demonstration efforts and pilot studies



BEAT

Berkshire Environmental
ACTION TEAM





Canoe Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary
Pittsfield

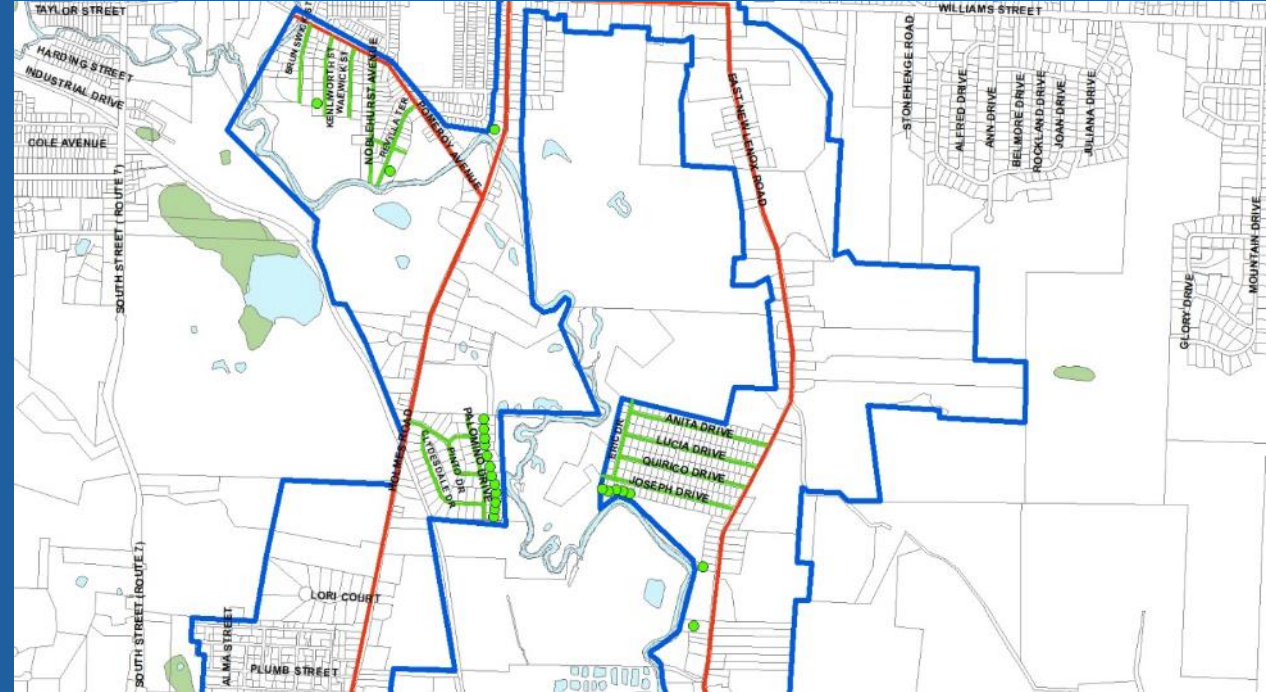
Pittsfield Specific Settlement Terms

Restored 1.5 Mile Reach
at the Confluence



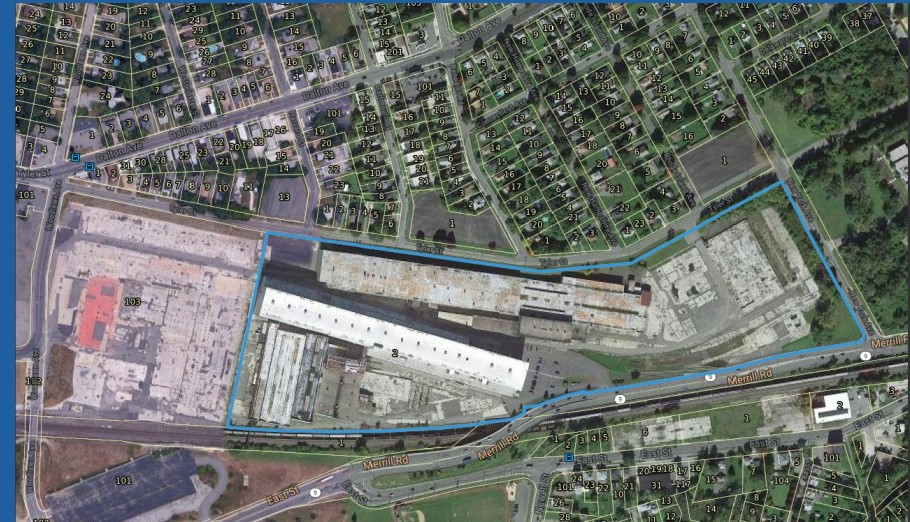
Community Benefits

- 22 floodplain properties to be remediated to residential performance standards
- Estimated 240,000 cubic yds to be removed from Pittsfield - no material to be landfilled in Pittsfield
- Enhance recreational opportunities along corridor after remediation
- \$8M additional contribution to City's Economic Development Fund



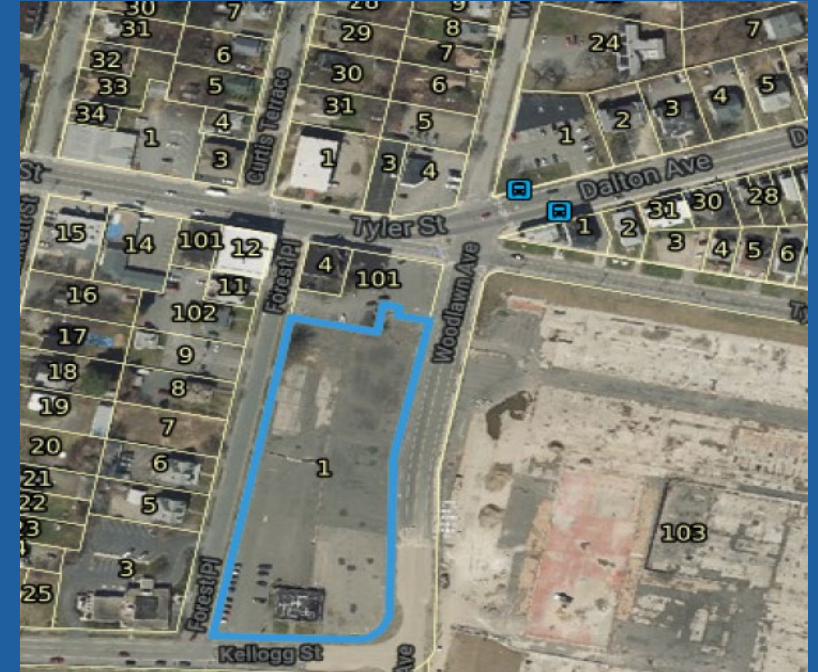
Aesthetic Improvements

- GE property south of East St
 - removal of barbed wire & former employee turnstiles
 - planting of evergreens
- GE property bounded by RR tracks/Merrill Rd, New York Ave, Tyler St & PEDAs
 - removal of barbed wire, pipe trestle, exterior vents & stacks
 - painting/refurbishing of rusted & peeling facades
 - replacement or filling of broken windows
- GE to meet semi-annually with City
 - discuss continued maintenance, eventual demolitions and other potential aesthetic improvements to GE owned properties in City



Potential Property Transfers

- Property Bounded by Woodlawn Avenue & Kellogg St
- Three parking lots along Tyler St Extension, GE to:
 - Remove paving, fencing and guard rails
 - Seed and landscape
 - Above to occur by 12/31/2020; after which property may be transferred to city or third party



Community Involvement in Clean-up Process

- Settlement requires GE to:
 - Prepare Quality of Life Plan addressing community health & safety, including noise, air, odor, light, traffic, etc. – in cooperation with City, residents & EPA
 - Coordinate work activities with City & residents including traffic routing
 - Minimize impacts to neighborhoods & restrict use of specific streets, including continuing to investigate other methods to further reduce impacts to neighborhoods
 - Repair roads used during remediation if damaged beyond normal wear and tear

Next Steps

- The Settlement Agreement requires a modification of EPA's 2016 Permit
- EPA will incorporate Agreement modifications and present Draft Revised Permit for public comment
 - Min. 45-day comment period, to include public meetings and public hearing
- After considering and responding to comments, EPA will issue a new Revised Permit
- EPA hopes to complete modifications, solicit public comment and issue a Revised Permit during 2020
- Settlement and fact sheet found at [epa.gov/ge-housatonic](https://www.epa.gov/ge-housatonic)

Supporting Documentation

- January 2006 Soil Sampling Report (Allendale School)
 - <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/01/246390>
- Air sampling Results-(Allendale School)
 - <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/collection/01/SC30260>
- Mass Dept. of Public Health: Evaluation of PCB Testing Conducted at the Allendale Elementary School (Oct 2007)
 - <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/01/585102>
- Presentation to CCC: PCB air sampling data, Allendale School and Rising Pond
 - <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/document/01/100010529>



Q&A