

**Public Input on General Electric's 2025 Annual  
Report on Biota Consumption Outreach Activities:  
Housatonic Rest of River - Connecticut**

**February 2026 – June 2026**

Public Input Period Ended on June 8, 2026

June 5, 2026

Mr. Joshua Fontaine  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
5 Post Office Square  
Boston, MA 02109

SUBJECT: GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, Rest of River (GECD850), 2025 Annual Report on Biota Consumption Advisory Outreach Activities for Housatonic Rest of River in Connecticut

Dear Mr. Fontaine,

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) appreciates the opportunity to review The GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, Rest of River 2025 Annual Report on Biota Consumption Advisory Outreach Activities for Housatonic Rest of River in Connecticut.

Enclosed please find the DPH's technical comments. The memorandum provides our review and comments of the GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, Rest of River 2025 Annual Report on Biota Consumption Advisory Outreach Activities for Housatonic Rest of River in Connecticut, focusing on the accuracy of Connecticut's state fish consumption advisories, characterization of potential risks to current and future site populations and outreach activities.

The DPH looks forward to continued coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on this project. Please feel free to contact Sharee Rusnak at 860-509-7583 or [sharee.rusnak@ct.gov](mailto:sharee.rusnak@ct.gov) should you have any questions regarding our review.

Sincerely,



Lisa Michelle Morrissey  
Deputy Commissioner  
Connecticut Public Health

Enclosure: Memorandum from Staff re: GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, Rest of River (GECD850), 2025 Annual Report on Biota Consumption Advisory Outreach Activities for Housatonic Rest of River in Connecticut

**Environmental Health Section**  
**Environmental and Occupational Health Hazards Program**

To: Lisa Michelle Morrissey, MPH, Deputy Commissioner

From: Sharee Rusnak, MSPH, ScD, Epidemiologist 3

Through: Neo DeLoreto, MPH, Epidemiologist 4, Program Supervisor, Patricia Bisacky, Public Health Services Manager and Jenna Nicol, Section Chief, Environmental and Occupational Health Hazards Program

Subject: GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, Rest of River (GECD850), 2025 Annual Report on Biota Consumption Advisory Outreach Activities for Housatonic Rest of River in Connecticut.

Date: May 27, 2026

The GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site, Rest of River 2025 Annual Report on Biota Outreach Activities for Housatonic Rest of River in Connecticut was prepared in accordance with GE's revised Biota Consumption Advisory Outreach Plan for

Housatonic Rest of River– Connecticut. This report summarizes the outreach activities conducted on behalf of GE in 2025, including the installation of new fish consumption advisory signage along the Connecticut portion of the Rest of River, as well as the provision and distribution of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) fish consumption advisory pamphlet to fishing license sales agents in Connecticut towns and counties along the Housatonic River.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) have requested that the DPH review this report. As part of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ASTDR) Cooperative Agreement Program, ATSDR-funded staff are tasked with reviewing these reports, evaluating exposure data from U.S. EPA and DEEP sites and assessing human health risks.

As requested by the U.S. EPA, I have reviewed this document, my comments are provided below.

1. 1. Introduction, first paragraph: The DPH recommends including a sentence that states, “Unless otherwise noted, there are no consumption limits on stocked trout and sunfish in all freshwater bodies in Connecticut.”
2. 1. Introduction, first paragraph, last sentence: The DPH recommends replacing, “warns against consumption of most freshwater fish throughout the State more than once a month or once a week due to the presence of mercury,” with “recommends limiting consumption of most freshwater fish to no more than once per week or once per month throughout the State due to the presence of mercury.”
3. 2. Installation of New Advisory Signs, Table 1: Row 1, column 2, the consumption advisory language for bluegill in the Housatonic River should be revised to state, “limited to one meal per month for everyone,” rather than applying to only non-sensitive populations. In addition, the advisory language for the bluegill in the Lakes within the Housatonic River should be revised to state, “one meal per month for sensitive populations and one meal per week for non-sensitive populations.” Please revise the language in row 2, column 2 for bluegill in the Lakes on the Housatonic River.

4. 2. Installation of New Advisory Signs, Table 1: White perch also have separate advisories for the Housatonic River and the associated lakes. Please add to row 1, column 1: “for the Housatonic River, white perch is limited to ‘one meal per month for non-sensitive populations, and one meal per two months for sensitive populations.” In addition, please add “white perch is limited to one meal per month for everyone” in row 2, column 2.
5. 2. Installation of New Advisory Signs, Second Paragraph. The DPH recommends adding the following text to this paragraph: “While additional fish consumption advisories have been issued for the Housatonic River south of the Derby Dam and O’Sullivan’s Island, as well as for a tributary, the Naugatuck River, it is important to note that these advisories are based on perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) levels in fish tissues and are not related to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs); therefore, they are not specifically included in the outreach and reporting activities described in this document.”
6. 4. Future Activities, 4.1 Inspection and Maintenance of Fish Consumption Advisory Signs, second paragraph: In addition to consulting with the DPH, DEEP, and the U.S. EPA, the DPH recommends that GE annually consult with local health departments and districts and municipalities along the Housatonic River, its lakes, and selected tributaries to determine whether any new fishing and boating access areas have been constructed. If new access areas have been established within the past year, additional advisory signage may be needed at these locations. Please consider adding language in this section of the document to reflect this recommendation.
7. 4. Future Activities, 4.1 Inspection and Maintenance of Fish Consumption Advisory Signs, Third Paragraph, last sentence: It is important that the DPH, in addition to the U.S. EPA to have the opportunity to review any modified signage prior to fabrication and installation. Please include the DPH in the section stating that the U.S. EPA will have the opportunity to review the signage before the fish advisory signs are fabricated and installed so that the DPH is also provided the opportunity to review the signs prior to fabrication and installation.

## Fontaine, Joshua

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**From:** Papp, Carol <Carol.Papp@ct.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 5, 2026 7:26 AM  
**To:** R1Housatonic  
**Subject:** Comments to EPA on the 2025 Annual Report on Biota Consumption Advisory Outreach Activities for Housatonic Rest of River in Connecticut

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the *2025 Annual Report on Biota Consumption Advisory Outreach Activities for Housatonic Rest of River in Connecticut*

1. CT DEEP recommends that when affixing signs to trees, 4" aluminum nails (non-toxic) be used while leaving 1-2" of the nail out of the tree so there will be room to grow. Please include a sentence indicating this change in the future, as signs are replaced.
2. Table 2: Sign at location ID 46 is in the driveway of Housatonic Meadows State Park in Sharon. CT DEEP is requesting a sign placed along the river in this area, where it will be more visible to anglers, instead.
3. Table 3: in addition to places listed in Table 3, CT DEEP is requesting that all local health departments/districts in impacted towns be included for pamphlet distribution as well. These can be found at [DPH Local Health Departments and Districts](#).
4. Section 4.1 *Inspection and Maintenance of Fish Consumption Advisory Signs* We are requesting "CT DEEP and" be added to the last sentence of paragraph 3 in section 4.1.  
*In the event that EPA advises GE that further revisions to the signs are necessary, it will specify the desired revisions to the format and wording of the signs and will provide translations into the desired languages, and GE will provide a mock-up of the revised signs to CT DEEP and EPA for final approval before the signs are fabricated and installed.*

Carol Papp  
Environmental Analyst  
Water Quality Group  
Water Planning & Management Division  
Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse  
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[www.ct.gov/deep/stormwater](http://www.ct.gov/deep/stormwater)  
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**Connecticut**  
Department of Energy &  
Environmental Protection