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April 2, 2018

Alexandra Dapolito Dunn
Regional Administrator
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Re: Housatonic Rest of River

Dear Alex,

Thank you for your March 7th letter regarding the Region's selected Housatonic Rest of River remedy.

Your letter states EPA is "continuing to explore all possible avenues, including mediation, that will result in a more expeditious cleanup that is satisfactory to all parties." GE stands ready to work together to reach a commonsense solution that will expeditiously clean the Housatonic Rest of River while protecting human health and the environment. Mediation holds the potential for the Rest of River to be cleaned up sooner than would be realized through protracted litigation and provides the parties the opportunity to address their concerns rather than leave them to the courts.

As my earlier letter indicated, GE does not want to prejudge any outcome or scenarios. GE commits to approach any discussions with an open mind to listen to issues and contribute to solutions. For example, in such discussions, we would want to hear from the Towns, the State, EPA, and other stakeholders regarding ideas about how GE might address concerns including on-site disposal – the issue remanded by the Environmental Appeals Board. To that end, GE is willing to participate in this effort with an independent and neutral mediator.

GE is proud of its record of successfully completing clean-ups in the area. As you know, GE already has cleaned up its former Pittsfield facility and worked with EPA in completing the clean-up of the first two miles of the River. These successes occurred even though, like now, there was a wide continuum of views and interests, with some parties ultimately objecting to the clean-ups approved by the Court in the Consent Decree.

GE is committed to listening in good faith to issues and concerns raised by the parties in assessing how we can address such concerns. Similarly, here, we recognize the Rest of River remedy will not be fully acceptable to all parties. However, that should not discourage us from a process to assess whether there is a better path forward that accelerates the clean-up, realizes results faster, and is consistent with the Consent Decree.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. R. Klee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Ann R. Klee
Vice President
Environment, Health and Safety