



**United States Environmental Protection Agency
One Congress Street, Suite 1100
Boston, MA 02114-2023**

September 8, 2009

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 June 19, 2009 submittal titled Groundwater Management Area 1, *Proposed Modifications to Monitoring Well Network*, GE-Pittsfield/Housatonic River Site

Dear Mr. Gates:

This letter contains the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) conditional approval of the above-referenced *Proposed Modifications to Monitoring Well Network* (the Proposed Modifications). The Proposed Modifications are 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 and the proposed groundwater monitoring described therein, subject to the following conditions.

1. GE shall submit a revised version of the Proposed Modifications within 45 days of the date of this letter. This revision shall summarize the status of these Proposed Modifications and also shall summarize the groundwater and NAPL monitoring program modifications that may be necessary as a result of implementation of the soil response actions.
2. In the revision of the Proposed Modifications, GE shall clear proposed replacement well locations for subsurface utilities utilizing available utility maps prior to specifying their location. "Dig Safe" and GE facility personnel shall also be notified before the replacement wells are installed.
3. In the Proposed Modifications, GE referred to the use of Sonotubes as an example of placeholders for wells to be utilized within the vegetative engineered barrier area. Based on recent discussions, however, EPA understands that GE plans to install replacement wells in this area in conjunction with installation of the vegetative engineered barrier, such that placeholders will not be necessary in most, if not all cases. In the revision of the Proposed Modifications, GE shall provide a summary of this approach.

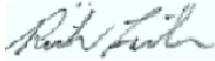
In the event that placeholders are utilized, EPA suggests that GE utilize steel or PVC casings instead of Sonotubes to facilitate attachment of the liner to monitoring wells.

4. The actual locations of replacement wells shall be field approved by EPA.

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 there is any conflict between the Performance Standards as stated in the Proposed Modifications and the Performance Standards as stated in the Consent Decree and SOW, the Consent Decree and SOW shall control.

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

Sincerely,



Richard Fisher
GE Facility Project Manager

cc:

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