



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 1  
JOHN F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203-0001

EPA - 490  
RFW - 00 - 0158

SDMS: 242242 - 241849

**Enforcement-Sensitive Information Attached**

**Memorandum**

**Date:** May 26, 1998

**Subject:** Request to Conduct a Removal Action at the GE-Housatonic River Site ("Upper Reach Removal Action"), Pittsfield, Massachusetts—Combined Action and EE/CA Approval Memorandum

**From:** Dean Tagliaferro, On-Scene Coordinator  
Site Evaluation and Response Section I, OSRR

**To:** Patricia L. Meaney, Director  
Office of Site Remediation and Restoration

**I. Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum is to request and document approval for the proposed removal action described herein and also to authorize EPA to conduct an engineering evaluation/cost analysis (EE/CA) to evaluate additional removal action activities for the GE-Housatonic River Site (the "Site"), Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

The proposed removal action covers only a portion of the overall Site proposed for the National Priorities List (NPL). Specifically, the "Upper Reach Removal Site" is defined as the section of the East Branch of Housatonic River from Newell Street, Pittsfield, to the confluence of the East and West Branches of the Housatonic River (the "Upper Reach"), the associated riverbanks and floodplains, all potential sources of contamination to the Upper Reach, and other areas necessary to conduct the removal action including, without limitation, General Electric's (GE) manufacturing facility (required for source control, soil and sediment staging, and dewatering and/or treatment). The distance from Newell Street to the confluence of the East and West Branches of the Housatonic is approximately two miles.

EPA will seek to have GE, the responsible party at the Site, perform the following phase of the proposed removal action:

1. Implement temporary measures to limit access and exposure to contaminated sediments, bank and floodplain soils located between Newell Street and the confluence with the West Branch of the Housatonic River;
2. Eliminate or mitigate all current and potential sources of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and other hazardous substances from entering into the East Branch of the Housatonic River and/or Housatonic River sediments;