

Volume: V
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HOUSATONIC RIVER PROJECT
COMMENTS RECEIVED BY VOICEMAIL

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(Transcript prepared from Audio Recording)
Reporter: Raymond F. Catuogno, Jr.

1 **Audrey Cole:**

2 Audrey Cole, President of the Housatonic
3 Environmental Action League in Cornwall, Connecticut,
4 also known as HEAL. My comments today September
5 15th, 2020 are as follows. One, monitor national
6 recovery is a phrase used to refer to the supposed
7 remedy for all of Connecticut, also known as the Rest
8 of the River. For over 20 years EPA promised that
9 HEAL's many specific concerns would be addressed when
10 the RCRA permit and scope of work for the Rest of the
11 River was released. Those promises were hollow.
12 There's no indication that monitor national recovery
13 will contain, destroy or reduce toxicity of PCB
14 contaminants in the Housatonic River sediment. And
15 HEAL can find no assurances that there will be any
16 quote, maintenance of institutional controls until
17 necessary reductions and risk have occurred, unquote.
18 Indeed, the 2020 RCRA permit as amended states in
19 Appendix C-12 in part, paraphrasing, the results from
20 the Connecticut model are very uncertain due to the
21 empirical semi-quantitative nature of the analyses.
22 As such it's not possible to predict with certainty
23 attainment or lack of attainment of the human health
24 criterion based on human consumption of water and
25 organisms of .000064 micrograms per liter in

1 Connecticut reaches ten through 16.

2 That's EPA in consultation with Connecticut does
3 not believe that there is a basis to establish
4 alternative standards at this time. Furthermore, it
5 goes on to say on that same page, "In addition this
6 concentration of .000064 micrograms per liter cannot
7 be reliably measured using available analytical
8 techniques. Monitoring using appropriate analytical
9 techniques and reporting levels will be conducted to
10 measure progress for the standard over time
11 throughout the Housatonic River in Connecticut." End
12 of that -- of those quotes on C-12. In fact, in the
13 early 2000's Charles Fredette, representing the
14 Connecticut DEP at an event in Stockbridge, Mass
15 stated at the meeting when repeatedly questioned by
16 HEAL why PCB sediment testing was never done above
17 the dams in Connecticut -- I paraphrase Charles
18 Fredette's response, paraphrase, if we found PCBs
19 there then we'd have to deal with them, quote,
20 unquote, paraphrase.

21 Such is the state of monitored national recovery
22 in Massachusetts. PCBs are at low levels and
23 Connecticut does not want to test in the areas where
24 it's presumed they are concentrated behind the dams.
25 As HEAL understands no PCB sediment testing has been

1 done in Connecticut portion of the Housatonic River
2 since 2005. This is an embarrassment all around. We
3 object.

4

5

6 **Dylan Lundgren:**

7 Hi. My name is Dylan Lundgren. I'm at 201 West
8 Street in Lenox, Massachusetts. And I wanted to call
9 to request that the original agreement be kept. And
10 that's to transport all the PCBs off site by truck.
11 And I would like to keep that as stated as it was
12 before the amendment. Stick to the original
13 agreement so that no toxic chemicals are leached into
14 local environment, ground or water supply. I'm sure
15 you all know of the recent movie Dark Waters. We
16 don't want any of that to happen again. And having
17 the PCBs transported off site by truck would make
18 that less likely to happen. Thank you.

19

20

21 **Dee Zimmer:**

22 Hi. My name is Dee Zimmer. My husband's Steve
23 Zimmer. And I live at 475 Maple Street in Lee,
24 Massachusetts 01238. Our home phone is 413 394-9619.
25 We do not want GE to dump in our Berkshires. We want

1 | to stop the EPA from forcing us to close our water
2 | wells, and to avoid possible water poisoning. The
3 | dump will leak. We have -- we know that during the
4 | last ten years, or will be for the next ten years
5 | thousands of truckloads with airborne toxic PCBs
6 | through Sheffield to Lee, to Stockbridge to Lenox, to
7 | Great Barrington, will be poisoning our beautiful
8 | Berkshires. We do not want this to happen. We are
9 | voicing our opposition to it. If you have any
10 | questions please give us a call. Thank you very
11 | much. I appreciate your time. Bye.

12

13

14 | **Barbara Chicmanter:**

15 | This is Barbara Chicmanter, 50 Dunmore Court in
16 | Lenox. And I'm just calling to say that I'm very
17 | dissatisfied with the new agreement that means that
18 | we have to trust General Electric to haul away the
19 | most toxic stuff. And I'm not sure why we should be
20 | trusting them to do that properly. They don't seem
21 | to be looking out for our interest in other ways all
22 | these years. I just wanted to voice that. Thank
23 | you.

24

25

1 **Alice Wohl:**

2 My name is Alice Wohl, W-o-h-l. And my address
3 is 12 Long Pond Road, Housatonic, Massachusetts
4 01236. And I'm calling to object most strenuously to
5 the plan of General Electric and the EPA to build a
6 toxic PCB dump in Lenox Dale near hundreds of houses,
7 near schools, near Lee's own water supply, and only
8 1,100 feet above the river, directly above the river.
9 I cannot say how strongly I feel about this. And I
10 hope the EPA will intervene. Thank you.

11

12

13 **David Hobbs:**

14 This is David Hobbs at 134 Hubbard Street in
15 Lenox, Mass. We urge GE not to make a dump of PCBs
16 near the river. We have three -- four grandchildren
17 that live near the river and we don't want them to
18 live near that poison and have them exposed for the
19 rest of their life. And my wife's father worked for
20 General Electric and he died for cancer. We sure
21 don't want that to happen to the next generation.
22 Take care of -- responsibility for your mess and
23 clean it up.

24

25

1 **Mary Teresa Valleri:**

2 This is Mary Teresa Valleri, 812 East Street in
3 Lee, Massachusetts. My email address is
4 mtvalleri@msn.com. I'm calling from my landline 413
5 243-6221. I do not want a PCB dump in my backyard.
6 And I would like the Environmental Protection Agency
7 to protect the people of Lee and Lenox Dale, and
8 please help put a stop to the General Electric plan
9 on putting a dumpsite two to three miles from my
10 home, or less. Please help us to stop this project.
11 Have them take the PCBs and bring them to an area
12 where there are no people living nearby. Thank you.

13

14

15 **Kathy Finlay:**

16 Hi. This is Kathy Finlay at 11 Sherwood Drive in
17 Lenox, Massachusetts. I'm calling to request that I
18 do not want this dump in our area. I don't feel this
19 was a fair thing to do and decide for us what we want
20 for our community. So the selectmen should not have
21 made that decision. So again I'm saying I do not
22 want the dump of the PCBs in the Lenox -- the area or
23 the Lenox Dale. Thank you, and have a good day.
24 Again, this is Kathy Finlay at 11 Sherwood Drive.
25 Bye now.

1
2
3 "Note that the Kelly file has B_Thompson speaking at
4 the end. Include both in transcript. We can decide
5 later if this is one comment or 2."

6
7 **Lisa Kelly:**

8 Hi. My name is Lisa Kelly. My address is 710
9 Maple Street in Lee, Massachusetts. I am calling to
10 voice my opposition to GE putting the toxic dump in
11 Lee. I have been a realtor for over 20 years, and
12 that's just one of the concerns about our home values
13 in the Berkshires and Lee and Lenox especially, Lee
14 and Lenox Dale. Also the poisoning that is going to
15 happen, that the people that live near the area are
16 going to have to go on Town water because it's
17 obvious that it -- the poison is going to leak down
18 into their well water. And we feel that this is
19 going to ruin the Berkshires. This is unfair, unfair
20 for our children, our future grandchildren. And we
21 feel that GE should be held accountable for this and
22 to do it the proper way which means -- if it means we
23 wait and we find different resources, how to clean up
24 the river instead of putting a toxic dump that is
25 guaranteed to leak. Once again, my name is Lisa

1 Kelly. And my address is 710 Maple Street.

2

3

4 **Barbara Thompson:**

5 My name is Barbara Thompson and George Thompson,
6 401 Greylock Street, Lee, Mass. And we ditto that
7 same conversation. That's how we feel. Absolutely,
8 feel very strong and opposed to this dump. Thank
9 you. Bye.

10

11

12 **Charles Mendes:**

13 My name is Charles Mendes of 55 Mountain View
14 Terrace in Lee, Massachusetts. I'm calling to state
15 my objection to the PCB dump that's proposed for the
16 Lenox Dale/Lee area. I feel it's a significant
17 health hazard to the residents, as well as the
18 schoolchildren. And I really am against it, and
19 would like to add my voice to that. Thank you.

20

21

22 **Diane Carroll:**

23 Hi. It's Diane Carroll, 55 Mountain View
24 Terrace, Lee, Massachusetts 01238. Please, please
25 for the health and safety of our children, our

1 elderly, our residents of Lee, Lenox Dale, please,
2 please do not put a PCB dump in our town. I am -- I
3 don't know what to say other than I'm very concerned
4 about the health and wellbeing of the five schools
5 being near a three-mile radius -- less than a three-
6 mile radius of the proposed dump. And there's a
7 handicapped home on Golden Hill Road that is going to
8 be exposed in Lenox Dale to PCBs if the dump goes in.
9 I'm speaking from the voices of children, and
10 handicapped and elderly population that cannot speak
11 for themselves. I am urging you to please take
12 consideration on not putting a dump in our town of
13 Lee, Massachusetts. Please, please. Thank you very
14 much.

15

16

17 **Thomas Marini:**

18 Hello. This is Thomas Marini. That's Thomas
19 Marini, M-a-r-i-n-i. My address is 63 Doreen Street,
20 D-o-r-e-e-n Street, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, P-i-t-
21 t-s-f-i-e-l-d, Mass. 01201. In regards to this
22 cleanup for the Housatonic I believe that General
23 Electric should take full responsibility and take --
24 pay for a cost of taking the toxic soil to an
25 existing toxic dump that's not in Massachusetts.

1 Yeah. And that's -- without any delay. It should
2 happen immediately. Let's stop all this legal
3 action. This is a delay tactic by General Electric.
4 And the EPA should stand up and protect the
5 Housatonic River, and make General Electric pay for
6 all the cleanup of the PCBs in our river. Okay. And
7 that should happen immediately. Again, this is
8 Thomas Marini, M-a-r-i-n-i. Address 63 Doreen
9 Street, D-o-r-e-e-n Street, Pittsfield, Mass, P-i-t-
10 t-s-f-i-e-l-d, Mass. 01201. Phone number 413 445-
11 6896. Okay. That's it. Please do your duty and get
12 this toxic material out of the Housatonic River and
13 don't cower to General Electric. This is your
14 responsibility EPA people. And it's your duty to
15 make this happen, and make it happen immediately.
16 Again, it's Thomas Marini, M-a-r-i-n-i, 63 Doreen
17 Street, D-o-r-e-e-n Street, Pittsfield, Mass., P-i-t-
18 t-s-f-i-e-l-d, Mass. 01201. Bye.

19

20

21 **Andrea Jacobsen:**

22 My name is Andrea Jacobson, 115 Hollenbeck
23 Avenue, Great Barrington, Massachusetts. And I would
24 like to state that I think it is immensely foolish to
25 go ahead and even consider building a dumpsite in a

1 place like Lee considering that it's right near their
2 water supply system. And that also it's going to be
3 a thousand feet above our river, the Housatonic
4 River, which GE was responsible initially for going
5 in and polluting and now we're going to get a double
6 whammy of potentially taking the sludge out of the
7 river and putting it at this terrible place that's
8 going to re-going in and contaminate the river. It
9 makes no sense whatsoever. I would like to see the
10 EPA do something that is sustainable into the future
11 and not think about short-sighted solutions. This is
12 -- we need a long-term solution to this problem so
13 that we don't re-contaminate our area. Thank you
14 very much. 914 419-7520. Bye now.

15

16

17 **Jane Shina:**

18 Hello. This is Jane Shina. I live at 4 Elm
19 Street in Lenox Dale, which is a stone's throw from
20 the beginning of the quarry, though I know that the
21 pit that you're proposing would be a little bit up
22 street, but extremely close. As residents that will
23 be directly affected I would like to suggest please
24 that you reconsider. It seems to me that if suddenly
25 things were legal that weren't legal before that

1 | there must have been a good reason for why that
2 | gravel pit or any of this agreement didn't go through
3 | before because it didn't pass safety standards, which
4 | I think perhaps have been relaxed, I'm sorry to say,
5 | during the Trump administration. And that right now
6 | if there isn't the science available to do it really,
7 | really safely then at least consider please waiting
8 | until the science is out there to be able to do it
9 | safely. It seems inconceivable to possibly
10 | contaminate the water table or have the contaminants
11 | just pour right back into the river just a little bit
12 | further down once this gravel pit starts to leak
13 | which it seems is almost inevitable considering the
14 | huge weight that will be on it, and there's massive
15 | rainstorms that we all know hit the Berkshires very
16 | regularly. And I just can't see how this is going to
17 | be safe for people who live there. Thank you.

18

19

20 | **Pooja Karina:**

21 | Hello. My name is Pooja Karina. I live at 398
22 | West Street in Mount Washington, Massachusetts. I'm
23 | calling to emphasize, treat, don't dump, PCBs at the
24 | dumpsite that's proposed in Lenox Dale. I've been
25 | involved in this movement for the last several years

1 and helped organize the protests in Great Barrington
2 several years ago. I for one would like to see the
3 Berkshires in Massachusetts be the frontrunner in
4 remediation technology nationally. And I think that
5 we can do that, it just requires putting energy, and
6 imagination, and will in that direction, as opposed
7 to the half-baked idea of building a toxic dumpsite
8 nears dozens, and dozens, and dozens, and dozens of
9 families, and hundreds, thousands of residents this
10 will affect for the next many decades. They won't be
11 able to be healthy there because there's the air
12 pollution of the PCBs. They won't be able to farm.
13 They won't be able to live their lives in a
14 sustainable manner. So it's absolutely not feasible
15 to build a dump there in the first place. The
16 residents are not going to allow it. Secondly, as I
17 said I really believe this is an opportunity to do
18 better. To not make a toxic site there, you know,
19 1,100 feet above the river, and instead think
20 creatively, seek out people in the nation; top
21 scientists and companies that are working on
22 remediation technology and create a plan that
23 actually is going to make everyone happy and proud of
24 living here. This is the time. It's 2020. We're
25 not living decades ago. And you as the EPA in your

1 | silence, and really complicity in this kind of pull
2 | the wool over our eyes shenanigans are just showing
3 | us that you can't be trusted. And this is very much
4 | part of what's happening with the Trump
5 | administration of course, and the administrations in
6 | the last three decades to be honest. So I really
7 | think we're in 2020, we need to see this move in a
8 | direction that's actually going to be viable for the
9 | next several generations, for the next hundred years.
10 | A plastic liner is not going to hold up. We know
11 | that they don't hold up. Every time I asked a
12 | question at the Great Barrington meeting about this
13 | several months ago there were no legitimate answers
14 | provided for my questions, which shows me that you
15 | really don't know. Nobody at the EPA knows, nobody
16 | at the government knows what the hell you're doing.
17 | You're just looking for a quick fix. And I know you
18 | can do better. I know we can do better. And we're
19 | not going to stand for this again really half-ass
20 | measure at appeasing of course as usual GE, and not
21 | the people, not the land, not the waters of the
22 | Housatonic. Thank you. Bye.

23

24

25 | **John Morin:**

1 Hello. My name's John Morin. I'm a property
2 owner near the Lenox Dale/Lee, the proposed site. My
3 property's at 175 Golden Hill in Lee. And I'm
4 calling to voice my displeasure with the General
5 Electric and EPA's plan to build a toxic PCB dump on
6 the Lenox Dale/Lee border near many homes and water.
7 So that's what I'm trying to do today. Once again
8 it's John Morin. And I don't want this built. And
9 that's why I'm calling today. Thank you.

10

11

12 **Ariane Goodwin:**

13 Ariane Goodwin, A-r-i-a-n-e, Good, G-o-o-d-w-i-n,
14 765 Maple Street, Lee, Massachusetts 01238. I do not
15 want a PCB dump in my town. I don't want it near
16 hundreds of homes, the schools, my water supply.
17 It's a thousand feet-plus, right above a river. None
18 of this is acceptable. Plus the EPA is taking way
19 too much stock in what GE has set up around this. We
20 don't need ten years-plus of thousands of truckloads
21 carrying airborne toxic PCBs to Sheffield to Lee, to
22 Stockbridge to Lee, to Lenox to Lee, through Great
23 Barrington to Lee, through Pittsfield to Lee. We
24 want our families and our children safe. Do not put
25 this forward. Thank you.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Raymond F. Catuogno, Jr., do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript, prepared to the best of my ability, of an audio recording provided to me in the matter of Housatonic River Project.

I, Raymond F. Catuogno, Jr., further certify that the foregoing is in compliance with the Administrative Office of the Trial Court Directive on Transcript Format.

I, Raymond F. Catuogno, Jr., further certify that I neither am counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this hearing was taken, and further that I am not financially nor otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.



Raymond F. Catuogno, Jr.

September 21, 2020

9 Hammond Street

Worcester, MA 01610

raycatuogno@realtimereorting.net

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