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HOUSATONIC RIVER PROJECT  
COMMENTS RECEIVED BY VOICEMAIL

\* \* \* \* \*

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

1 **Michelle Baldman:**

2 Michelle Baldman, 13 Monument Valley Road in  
3 Great Barrington, Massachusetts 01230. I am very  
4 opposed to the toxic PCB dump that is supposed to be  
5 built in Lenox Dale/Lee. This is a complete disaster  
6 in the making for people in the area. And it's  
7 located directly above the river. I can't think of  
8 anything more stupid. So I am voicing my concern and  
9 I'm totally against this. Thank you.

10

11

12 **Ryan Thorn:**

13 Yeah, this is Ryan Thorn at 30 South Prospect  
14 Street in Lee. And I'm against the dump totally.  
15 They shouldn't have -- the selectmen shouldn't even  
16 have done what they did. They did it illegally. So  
17 what I'm going to do is if the dump goes in, I go to  
18 sell my house -- which I'm going to do in the next  
19 three, four years, and I can't sell it, I'm going to  
20 hire the worst nasty lawyer you've ever seen. And  
21 how I'm going to do it is I'm going to sue all 19  
22 selectmen who did what they did, the EPA, GE, and put  
23 the frosting on the cake; Smitty Pignatelli for being  
24 a state rep, that he didn't do his job right. So the  
25 bottom line is you put it in here, there's so many

1 | people irate you might have a civil war even, but I  
2 | don't care about that, but I am going to put my house  
3 | up (inaudible) to get a worse nasty lawyer to go  
4 | against you people that you ever seen. And  
5 | furthermore, I don't know why they didn't pick  
6 | Barrington, the site down there, and spread it out  
7 | through Berkshire County, why they even chose Lee.  
8 | And secondly, everybody's talking -- and I wouldn't  
9 | doubt it a bit, why'd they even do what they did, the  
10 | selectmen? They probably took an envelope. I  
11 | wouldn't doubt that either. But we'll find out in  
12 | the end, won't we? So have a nice day. Like I said,  
13 | it's Thorn, 30 South Prospect Street.

14 |  
15 |

16 | **Mary Elizabeth Merritt:**

17 | Hi. Thank you for taking my comments. I sent an  
18 | email as well, but I want to make sure that something  
19 | gets through. My name is Mary Elizabeth Merritt.  
20 | I'm a registered voter in Great Barrington,  
21 | Massachusetts, 110 Christian Hill Road, Great  
22 | Barrington 01230. I'm calling because I would like  
23 | to stand with the people in the Berkshires who are  
24 | against the remediation plan as presented by EPA and  
25 | GE, which is to dredge the river. I am a Ph.D.

1 scientist with a degree in Chemistry. And I believe  
2 that there are newer more practical ways to address  
3 this problem specifically bio-remediation. I sent a  
4 link for that -- which you're probably aware of  
5 anyway, in my email. I just think that this is sort  
6 of like a settled deal that really is advantageous to  
7 GE, not to the people of the Berkshires, nor the  
8 wildlife of the Berkshires, nor the wellbeing of the  
9 Berkshires. And I am hoping that a better plan will  
10 be proposed. I'm not sure what else I can say here,  
11 but I would say that I tried to register for the  
12 public hearing and the -- whatever you call it, the  
13 website, the URL was not taking my request to  
14 register. So anyway, I appreciate that EPA is at  
15 least considering thoughts. And if there's a way I  
16 can help I would like to do that. My number is 413  
17 528-3079. A better cleanup would be so much better  
18 for the Berkshires economically, socially,  
19 environmentally, and I'd really like to see that  
20 proposal change. Thank you so much. Bye.

21

22

23 **Joanne Simpson:**

24 Hi. My name is Joanne Simpson. I live at 141  
25 West Road in Lee, Massachusetts. And I am just

1 calling to let you know that I am absolutely,  
2 positively opposed to this proposed cleanup and  
3 dumpsite of the Housatonic River in Berkshire County.  
4 This was just done so underhandedly. The voters  
5 never had a chance to talk about it, didn't have a  
6 say in it, and just -- and the plan is just  
7 absolutely unacceptable. Thank you.

8

9

10 **Phil Leahey:**

11 Hello. My name is Phil Leahey, 37 Reservoir  
12 Road, Lee, Mass. I'm calling in opposition to the  
13 way you guys have forced this upon the town of Lee.  
14 My family's farm has been operating for over a  
15 hundred years here in Lee. We are less than a mile  
16 from your proposed site. It's not in the best  
17 interest of my family or our farm. We've been here  
18 for a hundred years. We're not going to let you  
19 destroy everything we've worked so hard for. So get  
20 ready for a fight. You should be ashamed of  
21 yourselves. And prove me wrong that you're not a  
22 bunch of corporate shills. Thank you.

23

24

25 **Eileen Jacobson/Joyce Bacharach:**

1           This is Eileen Jacobson, Joyce Bacharach calling.  
2 We live at 880 East Street, Lee. And we are calling  
3 about the PCB dump that's supposed to be in Lee.  
4 We're very concerned about the safety of our children  
5 and grandchildren. We don't want poison in our  
6 families. Also, our property values will decrease as  
7 the word gets out. And it's a known fact that over  
8 time the dump will leak into the water supply and the  
9 river. And over time this has proven to be a fact.  
10 Also, have you considered alternative measures like  
11 those used to remove PCBs from the marshlands at the  
12 Kennedy Space Center? That seems to be more  
13 environmentally friendly. I hope you will consider  
14 these concerns and vote no on the dump. Thank you.

15  
16

17 **James Leahey:**

18           Hi. Dr. James Leahey. We have a family dairy  
19 farm within a half a mile of the proposed dumpsite.  
20 We are opposed to the landfill. We feel that not  
21 enough benefit is derived from dredging the top of  
22 the surface of the sediment in the river leaving  
23 behind about as much as there was to begin with, not  
24 to mention the contamination that will ensue from  
25 moving all of that material. So count me as being

1 | opposed, at 189 Reservoir Road, Lee, Massachusetts.  
2 | And my name is Leahey, L-e-a-h-e-y. Thank you. 413  
3 | 243-2411.

4 |

5 |

6 | **Laura O'Shaunessey:**

7 | Yes. Good afternoon. My name is Laura  
8 | O'Shaunessey. I'm at 55 Marble Street in Lee,  
9 | Massachusetts. And I am responding to the Rest of  
10 | the River proposal for the town in which I live and  
11 | in the Berkshires in general. And I'm leaving this  
12 | voicemail on your message line because I'm opposed to  
13 | the proposed Rest of the River PCB dump to be placed  
14 | on the border between Lenox Dale and Lee in  
15 | Massachusetts. And first I just want to say I thank  
16 | you for listening. I know that who's ever picking  
17 | this up is not personally responsible for this mess  
18 | that we find ourselves in. So this not a blame the  
19 | messenger message I'm leaving. I regret deeply the  
20 | decision made by our local town leaders to place a  
21 | major PCB dump in the site in the Berkshires. It was  
22 | clear from the meetings that I attended back in the  
23 | summer I think it was, that the reason for this  
24 | compromise solution was the fear of challenging a  
25 | company as powerful as General Electric in court.

1 The leaders who spoke at the open town meeting talked  
2 of the cost of a court case and the likelihood that  
3 we would not win. So Plan B was a negotiated  
4 solution in which the most dangerous PCBs would be  
5 removed from town and the less dangerous ones would  
6 be left in a secure place that would be monitored.  
7 When we asked for successful examples of PCB sites  
8 like the one proposed for Lee, the EPA representative  
9 at the Lee meeting could not name one. It is clear  
10 that much thought has gone into the proposal but  
11 there are several key factors that are missing.  
12 First, I am not convinced that there is such a thing  
13 as a safe PCB level. Second, the elaborate system of  
14 remediation of the PCB deposits will be placed either  
15 11 or 15 feet above the water level, depending on  
16 which document you read. Third, the safety of our  
17 water supply depends upon General Electric. If I'm  
18 wrong about this, I hope I am, but what I understood  
19 was that GEE (sic) is going to be monitoring our  
20 water supply to see whether or not it leaks in their  
21 protected area, whether or not it leaks into our  
22 water supply. This assumes that GE is capable and  
23 willing to do this job, and that it is honest enough  
24 to tell us when the water supply is compromised.  
25 This is the company that would not pay for the total



1 cleanup. This to me is a classic case of the fox  
2 guarding the henhouse. The amount that it would take  
3 for GE to remove all the PCBs from the Rest of the  
4 River project is minimal compared to the profits that  
5 GE makes every year. At this point many of us have  
6 minimal trust in our local leaders, no trust in  
7 General Electric. And I will say to you I've had  
8 more trust in the EPA for many, many, many years  
9 since you were founded during the -- I think it was  
10 the Nixon administration. But the current  
11 administration with its anti-science agenda has  
12 decimated your ranks of scientists who don't agree  
13 with their views on things like global climate change  
14 and other things. So I'm not sure what kind of a  
15 strong position you are in to do any kind of  
16 monitoring at this moment. So the residents -- we  
17 the residents of the Berkshires are left in the  
18 condition that has a high risk of doing damage to our  
19 health, our towns and our home values. My worst-case  
20 scenario is that we will end up between the Love  
21 Canal disaster in Western New York State many years  
22 ago, and the still ongoing water crisis in Flint,  
23 Michigan. Thank you very much for listening, and  
24 have a good day. Bye now.

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**Floyd Grossman:**

Yes. This is Floyd Grossman. I'm calling on behalf of myself and my wife. We have a house at 10 Lakeside Drive in Tyringham, Massachusetts. And we object to the potential construction of a PCB dump in Lexon (sic) Dale/Lee. We don't believe that it's a good idea. It's an environmentally bad idea. Thank you for listening.

**Jill Cimini:**

Hi. My name is Jill Cimini. I live at 32 Old Stockbridge Road in Lenox, Massachusetts. And I've lived in Lenox for about 15 years now. I'm very much against the PCB dump. The Lenox community is beautiful, as well as all of Berkshire County. And I'm really appalled that this is happening. I believe that it should be stopped. And this was all done as far as I know sort of, you know, like background -- backroom decisions that the public was not aware of. And it just is not right. I don't know if it's legal. But I just wanted to voice my concern. I think this is a terrible idea, and that General Electric should pay to have the PCBs treated

1 | or whatever the right thing to do with them is.

2 | Thank you.

3 |

4 |

5 | **Henry Davidson:**

6 |       Hi. My name is Henry Davidson. My address is 82  
7 | Prospect Street in Lee, Massachusetts. I'm calling  
8 | to ask you please not let these dumps happen. Right  
9 | I can drink my tap water, and I might get to stay  
10 | that way. Thank you. Bye.

11 |

12 |

13 | **Michelle Waldmen:**

14 |       Michelle Waldmen, 33 Angela Lane, Watertown,  
15 | Massachusetts 02472. I'm just sickened and appalled  
16 | by this GE and the EPA wanting to build a toxic PCB  
17 | dump in Lenox Dale/Lee. It's so close to the river.  
18 | It's so close to homes, and schools, and Lee's water  
19 | supply. I don't know how they could possibly come up  
20 | with this insane idea. So I'm very much opposed to  
21 | it. Thank you. My number's 617-393-1856.

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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

**0**

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01230 ----- 2, 3  
01610 ----- 12  
02472 ----- 11

**1**

1 ----- 1  
10 ----- 10  
11 ----- 8, 12  
110 ----- 3  
13 ----- 1, 2  
141 ----- 4  
15 ----- 8, 10  
189 ----- 7  
19 ----- 2

**2**

2020 ----- 12  
21 ----- 12  
243 ----- 7  
25 ----- 1

**3**

30 ----- 2  
32 ----- 10  
33 ----- 11  
36 ----- 1  
37 ----- 5  
393 ----- 11

**4**

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**5**

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55 ----- 7

**6**

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**8**

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880 ----- 6

**9**

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