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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 **Debbie Kelley:**

2 Hi. My name is Debbie Kelley, and I live in
3 Lenox, Massachusetts. I just wanted to leave some
4 comments about the permit, EPA permit for the
5 Housatonic River cleanup. I am opposed to a
6 hazardous landfill in Lee, Lenox Dale, Lenox,
7 anywhere in the watershed, or anywhere in Berkshire
8 County. After this containment the Housatonic River
9 will still be polluted. There will still be PCB
10 sediments left in the river. The river will not be
11 safe to swim in or to fish in. If PCB destruction is
12 not used at this site I support out of state by rail
13 transportation of all contaminated material to a
14 federally licensed hazardous waste facility. I feel
15 that this agreement neglects to assign the full
16 responsibility to GE. This agreement was decided in
17 private negotiations without a public voice or vote.
18 I feel this hybrid approach is a rationalized
19 solution approved by the EPA that neglects to assign
20 full responsibility to GE. Thank you for the time.

21

22

23 **Flora Marie Towle:**

24 Hi. This is Flora Marie Towle, T-o-w-l-e. We
25 have lived -- I have lived here in Lee my whole life.

1 I am 73 years old. We do not need or want this PCB
2 dump in Lee. It is going to be placed in a gravel
3 pit across the street from the pond. We do not need
4 to ruin our town, to have the reputation ruined by
5 the town with the PCB dump. GE has screwed us
6 royally. We had no say in this matter at all as
7 townspeople. We are very, very upset.

8

9

10 **Tom Melville:**

11 This is Tom Melville. I live at 63 Hurlburt Road
12 in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. And I'd just
13 like to say that I'm absolutely against General
14 Electric dumping their pollutants in Lenox Dale from
15 the river. I think they should have to take every
16 square inch of it away at their own expense. And
17 it's absolutely unacceptable to dump all this stuff
18 in our towns here, period. Goodbye.

19

20

21 **Georgia Wadress:**

22 My name is Georgia Wadress. I live at 6 Main
23 Street in Lenox, Massachusetts. Called comment on
24 the potential dumping of PCBs in Lenox Dale. I think
25 it's outrageous after all the years that people have

1 fought to get GE to clean up, they want to move it
2 into the next-door town and then dump it? There is
3 schools. This is a residential area. There is no
4 reason whatsoever why that should be accepted here.
5 And we're going to fight everything we -- and every
6 way we can to stop this. You need to treat that
7 stuff and get it out of here. That's my comment.
8 And I will be calling again. Thank you.

9

10

11 **Jackie Salvagio:**

12 My name is Jackie Salvagio. I live on Main
13 Street in Lenox, Massachusetts. And I'm calling to
14 say please no more chemical PCB dumps in Berkshire
15 County. There's no reason for that. We don't want
16 that. Thank you.

17

18

19 **Patricia Dietric:**

20 Hello. This is Pat -- Patricia Dietric. I live
21 on 115 Pine Street, South Lee, Mass. I just want it
22 stated that I do not want this dump. I have
23 grandchildren that live up on Willow Hill Road. That
24 I think this is -- that they -- deplorable that they
25 won't be able to go out in their yards when all those

1 | trucks start running by. I don't know what you're
2 | even thinking of doing this. You're going to ruin
3 | this little town. There's schools near there. There
4 | is people that use that place to walk every day. I
5 | just think it's terrible. I think we should all have
6 | answers. And I just want it known that I do not
7 | agree with this whatsoever. Thank you.

8 |

9 |

10 | **Denise Devereaux:**

11 | Hello. My name is Denise Devereaux. My address
12 | is 30 Church Street, Lee, Massachusetts. I would
13 | like to add my comment to oppose the toxic waste dump
14 | in the town of Lee. I think there is a better way of
15 | remediation. I think it was unfair that the town did
16 | not -- the residents did not have a chance to weigh
17 | in on this decision. And I think it's wrong. And I
18 | think you all know it. And I hope that you come to a
19 | more moral conclusion for a plan. Thank you.

20 | Goodbye.

21 |

22 |

23 | **Diane Shepardson:**

24 | Hello. I live at 160 Willow Hill Road, Lee,
25 | Massachusetts. My name is Diane Shepardson. I am 65

1 | years old. This is the house I was planning on
2 | retiring and living for the rest of my life. I'm not
3 | sure that can happen now. I want to know first of
4 | all if you want to have me have a blood test. I also
5 | want to know if you're going to test my land to find
6 | out if it's full of PCB's. I've gone to every
7 | meeting. And I've listened to every show and every
8 | -- it's just been on, and on, and on. I still don't
9 | have answers which roads are you going to be on? Are
10 | you going to be going by my house -- that it's -- the
11 | street is 11 feet wide, to truck the PCBs? No
12 | answers. I've read all those documents. Nothing is
13 | telling answers. I'm completely against this dump
14 | over there. I don't know what you all are planning,
15 | but I'm completely against it. I just want to know
16 | what will the value of my house be now? I want
17 | answers. I want to talk to somebody. 413 841-9473.
18 | So far there has been no true answers of what's going
19 | to happen to me up on this hill that I was planning
20 | on living. I walk this road at least five times a
21 | week. I usually do the loop down by Woods Pond, up
22 | Crystal Street, and up here. I won't be able to walk
23 | the street. I won't be able to do anything on this
24 | road. I just don't know what the answer is going to
25 | be. And I want answers. Thank you.

1

2

3 **Eric Singer:**

4 Hi. My name is Eric Singer at 43 James Road in
5 Lenox. I'm just calling on behalf of the residents
6 here in Lenox, Lenox Dale and Lee. I don't
7 understand why the EPA would bow down to a publicly
8 traded company when we already had an agreed upon
9 process for what to do with the PCBs, right? They
10 were -- the plan was to take them to an off-site
11 remediation area and have them handled there.
12 Putting it next to our neighbors in Lee, the town
13 water, seems absolutely insane. So shame on the EPA
14 if you agree to this, and obviously shame on GE.
15 Thank you.

16

17

18 **Glen Lipscomb:**

19 My name is Glen Lipscomb. I live at 60 Maritta
20 Avenue in Lee, Massachusetts. I oppose a hazardous
21 landfill in Lee, Lenox, Lenox Dale, anywhere else in
22 the watershed. There was inadequate opportunity for
23 the citizens to participate at the local, state and
24 federal levels relating to all decisions made during
25 this permitting process. This insufficient

1 | contamination is being removed from the river,
2 | riverbanks, floodplain, and residential and
3 | commercial properties, making this plan neither
4 | protective of human or environmental health. I
5 | support PCB destruction technology to be used on
6 | contaminated sediment and soils at this site to
7 | render the toxic chemicals harmless. If PCB
8 | destruction technology is not a part of this site, I
9 | support out of state transport by rail, of
10 | contaminated sediment and soils to a federally
11 | licensed hazardous waste facility. I am totally
12 | against having a dump in the Berkshires or anywhere.
13 | I would like my comment to go into the record.

14

15

16 | **Terry Gutierrez:**

17 | My name is Terry Gutierrez. I live in
18 | Housatonic, Massachusetts 01236. I just want to
19 | comment and say that I'm against the dumping of PCBs.
20 | And I believe that the problem should be remediated
21 | rather than dug up and dumped somewhere else. Thank
22 | you.

23

24

25 | **John Nalepa:**

1 I know you think you're listening to the science
2 on this, but I've been involved in this in the while
3 -- for a long while. And my name is John Nalepa. I
4 live down by Connecticut Ave. in Pittsfield. And to
5 pull the wool over their eyes -- and they're so
6 beaten up they couldn't fight back, I say, very
7 distressed situation that you left the neighbors in.
8 And now you're doing it again and trying to divide
9 towns and people within the same town when you should
10 have went about it the right way and got everybody
11 involved in the decision making process because it
12 does involve everybody, period. That's the truth.
13 You think you're following science, as I said, but
14 you're not. There's no way that a dump that's going
15 to threaten well water and is that close to the
16 Housatonic should be there. The fact is the whole
17 floodplain in surrounding areas is a PCB toxic dump.
18 And you should treat it as such. You don't put a
19 dump within a dump, period. What you're going to
20 look at is legal entanglement that will hopefully
21 stop the process. But more importantly, I think you
22 should realize that there will be a core group of
23 people that will galvanize, and rally, and tie
24 themselves to equipment, and stand in the way
25 physically of what your plan is. Just so you know.

1 You better be prepared for some serious protesting.
2 Thank you. This is John Nalepa. And I know you'd
3 love to hear the last of me, but it ain't happening,
4 because it's amazing how you're using science to get
5 to this conclusion when indeed the true science would
6 say different.

7

8

9 **Linda Carron:**

10 Hi. My name is Linda Carron. I live at 160
11 Willow Hill Road in Lee, Massachusetts. I am calling
12 because I'm against the Housatonic chemicals being
13 put here. I live here with my grandson. I have
14 drinking water we're concerned about. And we think
15 it's a very, very bad idea. And I would like you not
16 to be poisoning us. Thank you.

17

18

19 **Tim Casey:**

20 Hi. My name is Tim Casey. I live on 2 Crystal
21 Street in Lenox Dale, Massachusetts. I'm a little --
22 I live about 50 feet from the river, and about -- I
23 don't know, maybe a quarter of a mile from the
24 proposed PCB dumpsite, I'm a little miffed at the
25 secrecy and this closed-door deal that was made six

1 months ago or a year ago with the Lee and Lenox
2 Selectmen and the GE and the EPA. And I mean there's
3 still nobody knows the plan, how is this -- how are
4 the PCBs that are going to be brought into the dump
5 in Lee, what routes are they taking? Nobody says
6 anything about will they be going by my house, or who
7 knows? And then you got the bad stuff going out.
8 What routes are they going to -- they haven't
9 mentioned any roads and how it's going to be taken
10 out other than truckloads and truckloads of this
11 waste. So it's quite a concern. And myself, we're
12 right by the tracks here. And it should all go out
13 on the train because then you could seal it up and it
14 would be perfect. But that's just a suggestion I
15 have. And I know it's been mentioned many times, and
16 apparently it's too expensive. I think it would be
17 the way to go. If this stuff is airborne those
18 trucks aren't going to be sealed up. And if they're
19 going by -- through neighborhoods here, it's a little
20 scary. All right, well thank you for your time.
21 Bye.

22

23

24 **William Kearin:**

25 Hi. My name is William Kearin, K-e-a-r-i-n. I

1 live on 555 Chapel Street, Lee, Mass. 02138. I'm a
2 very concerned citizen. I know I live on the other
3 side of the town where the maybe, hopefully not, the
4 future dump. By my sister happens to live on Willow
5 Hill, which is right next to the dump. And my
6 grandson resides there. And we're all very, very,
7 very concerned because she has a little apartment
8 there, and my grandson's there. And even on the
9 other side of the town which is close to the Mass
10 Turnpike, well where are all these trucks going to
11 go, come. And when they're leaving town are they
12 going to be on the highway, which is about a half-
13 mile down the road from where I live? It just seems
14 to me well we could all work and figure something
15 else out besides polluting the town of Lee. Thank
16 you very much. Because it's going to be a long
17 project. And all these trucks carrying hazardous
18 waste, not acceptable. Thank you very much.

19

20

21 **John Polizzi:**

22 Hello. My name is John Polizzi, P-o-l-i-z-z-i.
23 I live at 81 Fox Run in Lee, Massachusetts 01238. I
24 am calling to voice my extreme displeasure over the
25 EPA what it seems to be like bowing to GE in this

1 regard and agreeing to this horrendous dumpsite at
2 the gateway of the Berkshires; Lee, Mass. Since
3 before I was born GE has been poisoning Western
4 Massachusetts and getting away with it, and getting
5 away with it. You know, I was in eighth grade when
6 the superfund site was brought up, and they started
7 saying they were going to start cleaning up. I'm now
8 almost 40 years old. And they continue to drag their
9 feet, fight in court. And it seems like they wore
10 you down. They wore the EPA down. And now you're
11 agreeing to this site which is doing nothing but
12 burying the problem in the ground in our town. I
13 urge the EPA to stick to the original plan of
14 trucking it outside of our state and having it
15 remediated at an outside dumpsite. I understand, you
16 know, the line that I've heard is well this is the
17 best deal that we're going to get. That's
18 ridiculous. That's ludicrous. Get out there and
19 fight for us. Fight for us. Fight for the people of
20 Lee. Fight for the people of the Berkshires. And
21 don't let these fat cats dictate to you how to run
22 the Environmental Protection Agency. It's
23 disgusting. You know, I have two daughters. One of
24 them is a cancer survivor at three years old. And
25 now I'm going to be living miles from a toxic waste

1 | dump, which will leak, they all do. I've been to the
2 | meetings. I understand, you know, how revolutionary
3 | this dump is, but it leaks, they always leak. And
4 | the fact that GE is going to be in charge of policing
5 | it is laughable. Couldn't be more angry with this,
6 | and more disheartened by the Environmental Protection
7 | Agency. Fight for us.

8

9

10 | **Carol Diel:**

11 | Hi. This is Carol Diel. And I live at 224 Grove
12 | Street in Housatonic. And I am calling to protest
13 | any PCB dumps in our river in the Berkshires. Makes
14 | absolutely no sense to take them out of the river and
15 | put them back where they can leach into the river.
16 | So I appreciate your attention to this matter. 413
17 | 274-6995. Thank you.

18

19

20 | **Elizabeth Chelli:**

21 | Elizabeth Chelli of Lenox, Massachusetts. I live
22 | in Lenox, and I do not want a toxic PCB dump. Please
23 | make GE treat the PCBs. Thank you. Bye.

24

25

1 **Dr. Jody Drury:**

2 Hi. This is Dr. Jody Drury and Tim Drury. We
3 live at 216 New Lenox Road in Lenox, Massachusetts.
4 We are opposed to building a dump in Lee. We do want
5 that respected and heard. We do not feel like that's
6 a place that's appropriate in this environment in the
7 Berkshires. So we're calling to let you know, we are
8 not for that at all. Thank you.

9

10

11 **Glen Lipscomb:**

12 Hi. My name is Glen Lipscomb. I live at 16
13 Maritta Ave. in Lee. And I am absolutely opposed to
14 the dumpsite. It is doomed to failure. It is not a
15 proven technology. GE will be monitoring it? Are
16 you kidding me? They've already screwed up and they
17 will screw up again. This is not a fix. This is a
18 temporary containment that will not prove to last
19 through time. There is -- excuse me, there is no way
20 this is a remedy to what has been done to the river.
21 There is no way this will succeed. This is a passive
22 action that is just done politically. There is no
23 way this will solve the problem. This is not going
24 to work. And I oppose this from the start. The dump
25 is not -- it's not feasible. The ground is not --

1 | it's not sustainable. It's sandy, gravelly. Any
2 | leaks will just go right into the groundwater. The
3 | effluent that will come from Woods Pond is there and
4 | needs to be pumped out and shipped out to another
5 | place. I mean you've got to be kidding me. No one
6 | is going to make this succeed, not GE, not the EPA.
7 | It's up to us to stop this because it is a failure
8 | waiting to happen. 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

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