



**General Electric Company
Pittsfield, Massachusetts**

**Housatonic River – Rest of River
Revised Corrective Measures Study Report**

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5.1.1 Review of Existing Information

The initial step in the process of identifying and documenting existing conditions would be to review and compile existing information. A considerable amount of work has already been performed that has documented the unique ecological resources of the Housatonic River and its floodplain and in particular those of the PSA. These include the following:

- The *Ecological Characterization of the Housatonic River*, prepared by Woodlot Alternatives, Inc. (2002) (now Stantec) for EPA. This document summarizes detailed field investigations performed over a three-year period (1998-2000) and associated research compiling the results of previous investigations of the ecological resources of the PSA. The 2002 Woodlot Ecological Characterization is a compilation of reported landscape/biophysical settings, natural community types, and biota (including macroinvertebrates, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals), including rare species information.
- The Designation of the Upper Housatonic River as an ACEC (Mass EOEEA, 2009), as well as the nomination prepared by the Upper Housatonic River ACEC Steering Committee (Save the Housatonic, 2008). These documents include a summary of ecological conditions within the Housatonic River and floodplain from the Confluence to Woods Pond Dam in the context of a broader area encompassing 12,280 acres of land surrounding the 13-mile corridor of the Housatonic River from southern Pittsfield to northern Lee.
- Data, mapping, and reports from the NHESP of the MDFW depicting Priority Habitats of Rare Species and Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife, as well as Biomap Core Habitats and Supporting Natural Landscapes within the PSA. These sources describe habitat conditions of state-wide significance and detail the state-listed rare species that have been documented within the Priority Habitat limits delineated.
- The evaluations of six example areas presented in GE's Supplement to Interim Response. Those evaluations contain considerable information on the existing ecological conditions and functions in the six example areas selected by EPA (which, as noted above, are representative of the river and floodplain ecology in the PSA), as well as the impacts of remedial alternatives on those conditions and functions.
- The results of NHESP's ongoing comprehensive survey of populations of state-listed rare species within the Upper Housatonic River Valley. NHESP has identified over 100 state-listed species within the areas surveyed. To date, this research has confirmed the presence of at least 49 state-listed species in the Housatonic River Valley between the Confluence and Rising Pond Dam (32 between the Confluence and Woods Pond Dam and 30 between Woods Pond and Rising Pond Dams, with many of these species found