



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R5/RD/ 067102

By Electronic and Regular Mail

Gary Klawinski, Director
US Environmental Protection Agency
Region 2, Hudson River Field Office
187 Wolf Road, Suite 303
Albany, New York 12205

Subject: Remedial Action Completion Report, Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site,
dated December 2016, submitted by the General Electric Company

Dear Mr. Klawinski:

This is in response to your request, in an email on October 3, 2017, to provide our comments on the Remedial Action Completion Report submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the General Electric Company (GE), in a letter dated December 23, 2016, and GE's request that EPA issue a Certification of Completion of the Remedial Action.

Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), GE is responsible for both the remediation of the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination, and residual damages for the restoration of the natural resources that were injured or will continue to be injured by PCBs left in the environment. The State and Federal Hudson River Natural Resource Trustees are conducting a natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) to determine appropriate actions needed to restore injured natural resources and natural resource services of the Hudson River.

As co-Trustees with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and New York State (NYS), we continue to be concerned about the significant PCB contamination left in the Hudson River, the time expected for the Hudson River ecosystem to recover from that contamination, and the adverse impact of that contamination upon the wildlife, natural resources, and the public that uses these resources. Those shared concerns are most recently expressed in letters to EPA from NYS and NOAA regarding the subject report (NYS Department of Environmental Conservation letter dated November 22, 2017 to EPA Administrator Pruitt; NYS Office of the Attorney General letter dated November 22, 2017 to EPA Region 2 Administrator Lopez; and NOAA letter dated November 27, 2017 to EPA Hudson River Field Office Director Klawinski)

PCBs in the river have caused past and ongoing injury to the natural resources of the Hudson River, resulting in lost public use of those natural resources. Those injuries extend for over 200 miles, have lasted for decades, and will continue into the future. The PCB contamination adversely impacts recreational fishing and hunting through consumption advisories, and has potential adverse impacts to birds, mink and other wildlife. Restoration options, particularly in the Upper Hudson River, may be limited by the amount and concentration of PCB contamination that remains bioavailable in the river.

We share, with EPA and our co-Trustees, a goal of the successful recovery of the Hudson River—a nationally significant ecological, cultural, and economic resource—from PCB contamination. We believe additional PCB removal and robust habitat reconstruction under the CERCLA remedial program will accelerate the recovery of the river and its resources, which will reduce the restoration required and facilitate the ecological and economic recovery of the Hudson River.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathryn Jahn".

signed 12/13/2017

Kathryn Jahn
Hudson River Case Manager
U.S. Department of the Interior

Enclosures