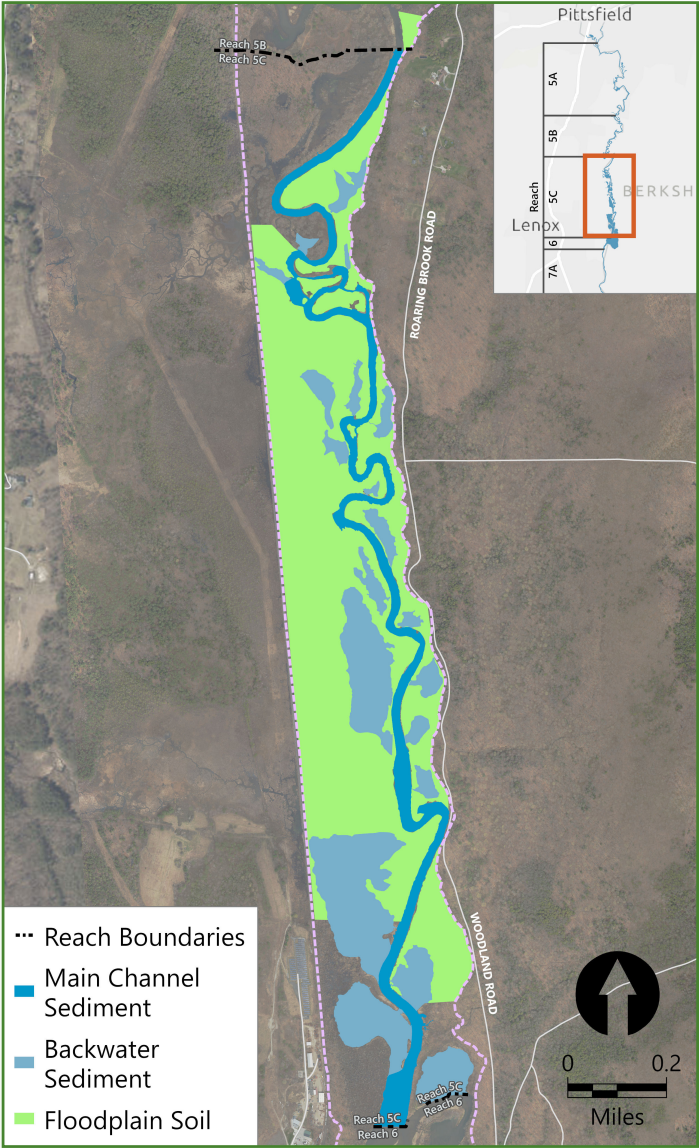


# HOUSATONIC REST OF RIVER REACH 5C DATA COLLECTION

In cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), GE is conducting a Pre-Design Investigation (PDI) along a 3-mile segment of the Housatonic River known as Reach 5C, in preparation for remedial activity that is expected to commence in 2030.

Reach 5C extends from approximately New Lenox Road to the northern edge of Woods Pond in the Town of Lenox.

Approximately 16,800 sediment and soil samples will be collected and analyzed as part of the PDI work. The purpose of these activities is to collect new PCB data in sediment and soil, as well as geotechnical information, to support the development of a Conceptual Remedial Design/ Remedial Action (RD/RA) Work Plan for Reach 5C, which will be submitted for review by the public and EPA in early 2028.



## SUMMARY OF SAMPLES TO BE COLLECTED AS PART OF THE PDI

| Area of Reach 5C            | No. of Samples |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Main River Channel          | 3,300          |
| Floodplain                  |                |
| non-residential properties  | 10,700         |
| residential                 | 300            |
| Backwaters and Vernal Pools | 2,500          |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>16,800</b>  |



### Why Is It Important to Have So Much Data?

A robust dataset is important to ensure that future remedial activities are appropriately designed and implemented to achieve EPA's remedial goals. The data will further delineate where remedial activities need to occur.

### Has This Area Been Sampled Previously?

Yes, but the data were collected and analyzed many years ago. New information will fill in data gaps and identify any changes in conditions that have taken place since the initial data collection.

### What is the Contaminant of Concern in Reach 5C?

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are the contaminant of concern. Although PCB concentrations in Reach 5C are generally low, PCBs can bioaccumulate in fish and wildlife. This is one reason why GE has committed to cleaning up the river.

### When Will the Sampling Activities Take Place?

Field activities began this summer and will continue through December 2026, and includes construction of a small operations area on GE-owned property in the Town of Lenox. Samples will be collected during normal business hours Monday through Friday. At this time it is not anticipated that weekend or holiday work will be needed.

### Will You Be Sampling Private Properties?

Yes, sampling will be conducted with permission from property owners.

### How Can We Tell Who Are Project Workers and Who Are Not?

Project workers are required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). This typically includes hard hats, safety glasses, boots, gloves, and reflective vests and/or personal flotation devices. In some cases, workers who may come into direct contact with PCB-containing soils while sampling may also wear lightweight protective coveralls to prevent contaminants from contacting skin and clothing.

### Will the Sample Collection Work Be Noisy?

The sample collection work is not particularly noisy. For some sample activities a small gas-powered generator may need to be used. GE will monitor air quality and noise as required.

### Does the Work Need to Happen?

Yes. In 2000, GE made a legally binding commitment to EPA and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to clean up the Housatonic River. Over the past 20 years, the focus has been on addressing the most heavily impacted areas near GE's former facilities in Pittsfield, as well as cleaning up and demolishing those facilities. That work is largely complete. Following decades of studies, discussion, and engineering design to support a safe and effective Housatonic Rest of River remediation, the project begins this year and is expected to continue for more than 10 years.

## Stay in Touch



**The GE Housatonic River Project Team welcomes your interest. For up-to-date project information, please visit [housatonicriverproject.com](http://housatonicriverproject.com). You may also email [info@housatonicriverproject.com](mailto:info@housatonicriverproject.com) or call 888-596-3655.**

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