



BERKSHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION TEAM
20 Chapel St. Pittsfield, MA 01201 • thebeatnews.org
(413) 464-9402 • team@thebeatnews.org

Protecting the environment for wildlife in support of the natural world that sustains us all.

Right now the river is an unlined, uncapped, toxic waste dump allowing PCBs to spread to the air, water, land, and up the food web. PCBs last forever¹ and they are getting into everything²

Without mediation agreement -

- 1, 2, or 3 dumps could have been allowed in the Berkshires possibly allowing high-level toxic waste and no remediation would start for 3-7 years

Mediation agreement -

- with the mediation agreement we ensure only one dump, low-level but built to high-level standards, 1,500 feet from the river, 15 feet above high groundwater level, behind the Lane gravel quarry
- The remediation will begin immediately with sampling and work plan design
- Over 85 more acres will be remediated, far less “capping” of the river
- Two dams will be removed so fish and other aquatic wildlife can move up and down the river in that location freely
- There will be a pilot study on vernal pool remediation. EPA will coordinate with the affected municipality and interested stakeholders, including BEAT, on the vernal pool remediation.
- GE & EPA will work on getting PCBs out of the stormwater at the PEDAsite in Pittsfield entering the river above most of the remediation
- Woods Pond and part way up stream to be done by hydraulic dredging and piped directly to the upland disposal facility (no loading dump trucks and trucking across roads – fewer staging areas)
- We, with our allies, will keep fighting to have this and all dumps in the Berkshires remediated as appropriate technology becomes available
- EPA has committed to review recent and new research on alternative technologies for PCB remediation and collaborate on on-site technology demonstration efforts and pilot studies
- EPA has committed to soliciting input and working with all stakeholders, specifically including Native American Tribes, as the cleanup design progresses

Keep in mind that PCBs going into this dump are PCBs that would otherwise have been left in the river to continue to get into the air, water, land, and food web. There are no new toxic materials coming to the site. The pollution currently in the river and around the surrounding environment will finally be removed and contained. We will keep working to ensure that eventually this material, and that stored in Pittsfield, can be detoxified.

¹ Very long half-life

² tree bark near the river showing in the air, to Inuit people and marine animals high up the food web