## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSCHUSETS WESTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, COMMONWELTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, STATE OF CONNECTICUT,

Plaintiffs,

MOLDMASTER ENGINEERING, VINCENT CURRO, VINCENT AND CHERYL STRACUZZI

Plaintiffs Intervenors.

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY,

٧.

Defendant.

C.A. Nos. 30225-MAP 30226-MAP and 30227-MAP

## MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN OPPOSITION TO APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT DECREE

Moldmaster Engineering Incorporated, Vincent Curro and Vincent Stracuzzi and Sherry Stracuzzi, all owners of properties located on Newel Street in Pittsfield, have filed two Memorandums of Law in this matter together with exhibits, one on February 22, 2000, and the other in the form of a Reply Brief on June 13, 2000.

Plaintiffs Intervenors argument advanced in both briefs is that the Consent Decree, if entered in its present form, will represent a destruction of all value of Plaintiffs Intervenors' properties for two reasons: a) it will deprive Plaintiffs Intervenors of the use and enjoyment of their real estate properties, and b) it will preempt any legal action Plaintiffs Intervenors have pending in this Court against the General Electric Company.

Given the fact that all the arguments were properly made in these two briefs, supported by the attached exhibits, there is no point repeating them here. Plaintiffs Intervenors would like to point out to the Court that not a single party to these proceedings, not the United States, not the State of Massachusetts, not the City of Pittsfield, and not the General Electric Company have denied that the Consent Decree, if approved, would represent the destruction of all the value of the properties of Plaintiffs Intervenors.

The only argument made by the United States is that Plaintiffs Intervenors need to pursue their takings claims in the US Court of Federal Claims. Plaintiffs Intervenors cannot do that of course unless and until their claims are ripe. Their claims are not ripe unless, until and if this Court approves the Consent Decree.

The State of Massachusetts again has not denied that approval of the Consent Decree, in its present form, would represent a taking of Plaintiffs Intervenors' properties.

The only argument made by the State of Massachusetts is that they are immune for their actions. Plaintiffs Intervenors have answered this argument in their Reply Brief.

Given the fact that no one has denied that approval of the Consent Decree would be the equivalent of a taking of Plaintiffs Intervenors' properties, by the United States and the State of Massachusetts, there is no point making the same arguments here as were made in Plaintiffs Intervenors' Briefs dated February 22, 2000, and June 12, 2000 together with the exhibits attached thereto.

In addition to the fact that the Consent Decree represents a taking of Plaintiffs
Intervenors properties it is also a legally flawed settlement which must also be rejected by

this Court for all the arguments made in the Brief filed by the Church et al., Plaintiffs

Intervenors, which are all incorporated here by reference.

September 20, 2000.

Respectfully submitted, By Attorneys for Plaintiffs' Interveners.

Cristóbal Bonifaz (BBO 548-405)

John C. Bonifaz (BBO 562-478)

LAW OFFICES OF CRISTOBAL BONIFAZ

48 North Pleasant Street

P.O. Box 2488

Amherst, MA 01004-2488

Tel: 413-253-5626

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Cristóbal Bonifaz, certify that today, September 20, 2000, I served this Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Approval of the Consent Decree, by regular mail upon the parties designed to accept service:

Attorney for the United Stares:

Cynthia S. Huber or Counsel in her Office Senior Attorney U.S. Department of Justice P.O. Box 7611 Washington, D.C. 20530-7611 (202) 514-5273

Attorney for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

James R. Milkey or Counsel in his Office Assistant Attorney General Chief, Environmental Protection Division 200 Portland Street Boston, Massachusetts 02114 (617) 727-2200, Ext. 3347

## Attorney for the State of Connecticut:

John M. Looney or Counsel in his Office Assistant Attorney General 55 Elm Street, P.O. Box 120 Hartford, Connecticut 06141 (860) 808-5318

Attorney for the General Electric Company:

Samuel Gutter or Counsel from his Office Sidley & Austin 1722 Eye Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 736-8711

Attorney for the General Electric Company:

James R. Bieke or Counsel from his Office Shea & Gardner 1800 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 828-2036

Attorney for The City of Pittsfield and for Pittsfield Economic Development Authority:

Cristin L. Rothfuss or Counsel from her Office Berstein, Cushner & Kimmell 585 Boylston Street Suite 200 Boston, Massachusetts 02116 Tel: 617-236-4090

Attorney for Housatonic Environmental Action League:

Glenn D. Goodman Law Offices of Glenn D. Goodman, P.C. 82 Maple Street Springfield, MA 01105 Tel: 413-746-3523

Attorney for the Schagticoke Tribe

Michael Burns Law Offices of Attorney Michael J. Burns P.C. 10 Columbus Boulevard Circle, Suite 2N Hartford, CT 06106

Tel: 860-725-6812

Cristóbal Bonifaz