



EPA Plans Building Demolition and Capping

Why is cleanup needed?

The Aerovox building at 740 Belleville Avenue in New Bedford is contaminated with dangerous levels of PCBs. The levels in the building could harm human health and the environment from frequent or long-term exposure to the contamination. To protect workers and neighboring residents, EPA recommends appropriate cleanup measures to reduce the chances that people could be exposed to the current site contamination.

Currently, the major pathways of potential exposure are:

- Contact with contaminated surfaces by workers or site visitors. PCBs are the concern with respect to direct contact and incidental ingestion.
- Migration of PCB contamination offsite via tracking and weathering.

After reviewing the information collected in the 1997 and 1998 investigations, EPA has determined that the levels of PCBs in the facility represent a hazard that should be addressed.

Aerovox, Inc., Site New Bedford, Massachusetts

The Cleanup Proposal...

Based on the detection of significant levels of polychlorinated biphenyls in the building (wall, floors, etc) at the Aerovox facility, EPA proposes the following cleanup plan to reduce risk from site contamination:

- **Clean metal surfaces of the building prior to removal. The "cleaned" metal will be transported to a steel smelting facility.**
- **Demolish the building. The debris will be transported to an appropriate offsite disposal facility.**
- **The first floor concrete slab will remain in place.**
- **The site will be capped to prevent migration of subsurface contamination.**

More details on page 2

What do you think?

EPA is accepting public comment on this proposal from October 8, 1998 through November 7, 1998. You don't have to be a technical expert to comment -- if you have a concern or preference, EPA wants to hear it before making a final decision on how to protect your community.

To comment formally:

Send written comments postmarked no later than November 7, 1998 to:

Kimberly Tisa
Project Manager
U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency
Region I (CPT)
JFK Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203

E-mail comments

by November 7, 1998 to:
tisa.kimberly@epamail.epa.gov

RCRA RECORDS CENTER
FACILITY Aerovox Inc
I.D. NO. MA062319777
FILE LOC. Admin Record # 3
OTHER (12-8)

A Closer Look at EPA's Proposal...

EPA's proposal involves the cleaning, demolition and removal of the contaminated building that represent a threat to public health and the environment. The PCBs in the building represent a direct contact threat to humans and are a significant potential ecological threat.

The goal of EPA's proposed cleanup is to remove the source of contamination that presents a direct contact threat. A groundwater monitoring system has been in place at the site since the mid 1980's. The system will remain in place and monitoring will continue. The major cleanup activities are described below.

1. *Pre-demolition activities.*

- Conduct additional building characterization to determine materials that require disposal as a PCB waste.
- Clean metal structures and surfaces to reduce PCB concentrations in order to allow for removal and disposal of the material at a steel smelting facility.
- Survey and remove asbestos prior to building demolition.
- Modify and remove utilities.
- Develop plans and procedures for air monitoring, dust control, surface water control, equipment decontamination, waste handling, health & safety and contingency plans.

2. *Demolition.*

- Demolish the facility.
- Ship the debris to an appropriate offsite disposal facility.

3. *Site restoration/cap construction.*

- Design and install a cap for the entire facility, including the area where the building was located.
- Maintain long term cap.

4. *Cost.*

- The total cost of this action is estimated to be 8.3 million.

5. *Schedule.*

- The project is estimated to be completed by the end of 2003.

Why Does EPA Recommend this Alternative?

The EPA recommends a cleanup plan that leaves the first floor concrete slab in place. This alternative:

- Meets three criteria of cost, effectiveness, and implementability, including protecting public health and the environment.
- Provides the same amount of protection for significantly less cost.

Next Steps

In November 1998, EPA expects to have reviewed all comments and signed the action memorandum describing the cleanup plan. The action memorandum and a summary of responses to public comments will be made available to the public at the New Bedford Free Public Library and through the EPA Records Center in Boston. EPA will announce the decision through the local news media and the community mailing list.

What impacts would the cleanup have on the local community?

- ◆ All options disturb the waste and the early action could present short-term risks, so special precautions to minimize dust, and runoff will be taken during the project.
- ◆ Air and other emissions will be monitored.
- ◆ Workers who implement the action will be protected through use of personal protective gear and implementation of proper safety practices.
- ◆ There should not be an increase in traffic during the project as compared to current traffic from the facility.
- ◆ Activities will be conducted during normal business hours.

Site History

The Aerovox Site is a 10 acre parcel located at 740 Belleville Avenue in New Bedford, Massachusetts. The Site is comprised of an approximately 450,000 s.f. manufacturing building with a parking lot located south of the building.

1982: Consent Order entered into between Aerovox and the USEPA under Section 106 of CERCLA and a similar order between Aerovox and the State DEQE, now the MADEP. As a result a site investigation was conducted of an unpaved area at the eastern end and an area to the north of the manufacturing building.

1983-1984: Final remedial action resulting in the capping of the PCB-contaminated soil area, installing a steel sheet pile cutoff wall to serve as a vertical barrier to ground water and tidal flow.

1988: Removal of 2 fuel oil storage tanks and a condensate collection tank from the concrete containment bunker. This action included an assessment of the impacted areas.

1990: Based on the above assessment the following activities were conducted; excavation of the petroleum impacted soils for on-site treatment, construction of an oil-water separator, and post-construction monitoring.

1993: The MADEP determined no further action necessary for the containment bunker remedial project.

1997-1998: Inspection of the building by the USEPA involved the collection of samples from floors inside the manufacturing area of the building. As a result of EPA's findings, Aerovox contractors conducted additional building material, soil and air monitoring investigations. Based on the collective findings EPA approved the initiation of an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis for a non-time critical removal action.

Scope and Role of this Action

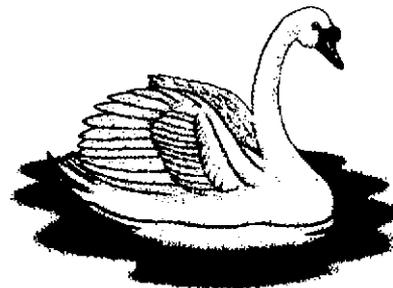
The Superfund law allows EPA to implement cleanup actions under the "removal" or "remedial" authorities specified in the statute. The approach depends on a variety of factors. Removal actions are often used to respond to emergency or time-critical situations.

EPA may, however, perform a removal action at a site when **prompt action is necessary**, but more than 6 months of planning and preparation time is available before on-site cleanup work must begin. Such a removal is called a non-time-critical removal action (NTCRA).

The building contamination at the site qualifies for a NTCRA because control of the source material is necessary to protect the environment and community, and to minimize the potential for off-site migration. A study called an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) has been prepared to evaluate different options for controlling the source of contamination.

A NTCRA does not always result in an actual off-site disposal. Instead, a NTCRA may involve various treatment or containment technologies to deal with the contamination on site.

A common theme for NTCRAs is that EPA will generally use this authority to accelerate its response to address the source of contamination at a site. This is consistent with EPA's efforts to speed up Superfund cleanups and make them more timely and efficient. In particular, implementing a NTCRA achieves rapid risk reduction as compared with more traditional Superfund cleanups.



What's a Formal Comment?



During the 30-day formal comment period, EPA will accept written comments. At the end of the comment period a public hearing may be held depending on the written comments. EPA uses public comments to improve the cleanup proposal.

To make a **formal** comment you need only submit a written comment during the 30-day comment period, or should a public hearing be held, speak during the hearing.

Federal regulations require EPA to distinguish between "formal" and "informal" comments. While EPA uses your comments throughout the site investigation and cleanup process, EPA is **required to respond to formal comments in writing only**. Should a hearing be held, EPA will not respond to your comments during the formal hearing.

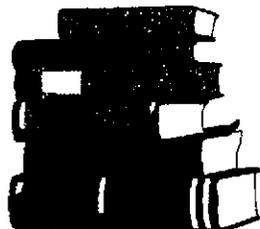
EPA will review all formal comments received during the formal comment period before making a final cleanup decision. EPA will then prepare a written response to all formal comments received.

Your formal comment will become part of the official public record. The transcript of comments and EPA's written responses will be issued in a document called a Responsiveness Summary. We will release the Responsiveness Summary  with the final cleanup decision.

For More Detailed Information

To help the public understand and comment on the proposal for the site, this publication summarizes a number of reports and studies. All of the technical and public information publications prepared to date for the site are available at the Aerovox, Inc., site information repositories:

New Bedford Free Public
Library
613 Pleasant Street
New Bedford, MA 02740
(508) 991-6280
Hours: M-Th 9:00am-9:00pm
F 9:00am-5:00pm
Sa 9:00am-5:00pm
Contact: Martine Hargreaves,



Reference Coordinator

EPA Records Center
90 Canal Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 573-5729
Hours: 10:00 am-1:00pm
2:00 pm-5:00 pm

The Three Criteria for Choosing a Cleanup

EPA uses three criteria to balance the pros and cons of cleanup alternatives. EPA has evaluated how well each cleanup alternative developed for the Aerovox, Inc., site meets these criteria (see Table 1). Once comments from the state and the community are received, EPA will select the cleanup plan.

- 1. Effectiveness:** Will it protect you and the plant and animal life on and near the site? EPA will not choose a plan that does not meet this basic criterion. Does the alternative meet all standards? Will the effects of the cleanup plan cause future risk? Does the alternative reduce the contaminants and their harmful effects? How soon will site risks be adequately reduced? Could the cleanup cause short-term hazards to workers, residents, or the environment?
- 2. Implementability:** Is the alternative technically and administratively feasible? Are the right goods and services, i.e. treatment machinery, space at an approved disposal facility, available for the plan? What are the administrative barriers to proceeding?
- 3. Cost:** What is the total cost of an alternative over time? EPA must find a plan that gives necessary protection for a reasonable cost.

Four Kinds of Cleanup

EPA looks at numerous technical approaches to determine the best way to reduce the risks presented by a Superfund site. The EPA then narrows the possibilities to approaches that would protect human health and the environment. Although reducing risks often involves combinations of highly technical processes, there are really only four basic options.



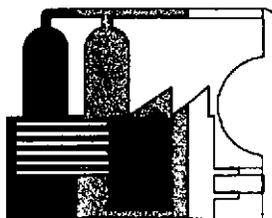
Take limited action: Leave the site as it is, or just restrict access and monitor it.



Contain contamination: Leave contamination where it is and cover or contain it in some way to prevent exposure to, or spread of, contaminants. This method reduces risks from exposure to contamination, but does not destroy or reduce it.



Move contamination off site: Remove contaminated material (soil, groundwater, etc.) and dispose of it or treat it elsewhere.



Treat contamination on site: Use a chemical or physical process on the site to destroy or remove the contaminants. Treated material can be left on site. Contaminants captured by the treatment process are disposed in an off-site hazardous waste facility.

Alternatives for the AEROVOX, INC., Superfund Site

The Aerovox Inc., site Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) report reviewed the options EPA considered for cleanup, as well as the EPA's proposed cleanup plan. The options, referred to as "Removal Action Alternatives," are different plans to contain, remove or treat contamination to protect public health and the environment.

During the upcoming comment period, EPA welcomes your comments on the proposed cleanup plan as well as the other approaches EPA evaluated. These alternatives are summarized below. Please consult the Aerovox Inc., site EE/CA for more detailed information.

Cleanup Alternatives

Alternative 1: This alternative, described in more detail on pages 1 & 2, is the EPA preferred alternative.

- Demolition of the building and disposal of the demolition debris at an appropriate offsite disposal and/or treatment facility.
- Leave the foundation concrete slab in place.
- Cover the building footprint with clean fill and cap the entire site.

Alternative 2:

- Demolition of the building. Demolition debris which does not contain PCBs greater than or equal to 50 ppm would be placed as backfill within the below-grade portions.
- Remove a portion of the foundation concrete slab.
- Remaining demolition debris shipped to an appropriate offsite disposal and/or treatment facility.
- Cover the building footprint with clean fill and cap the entire site.

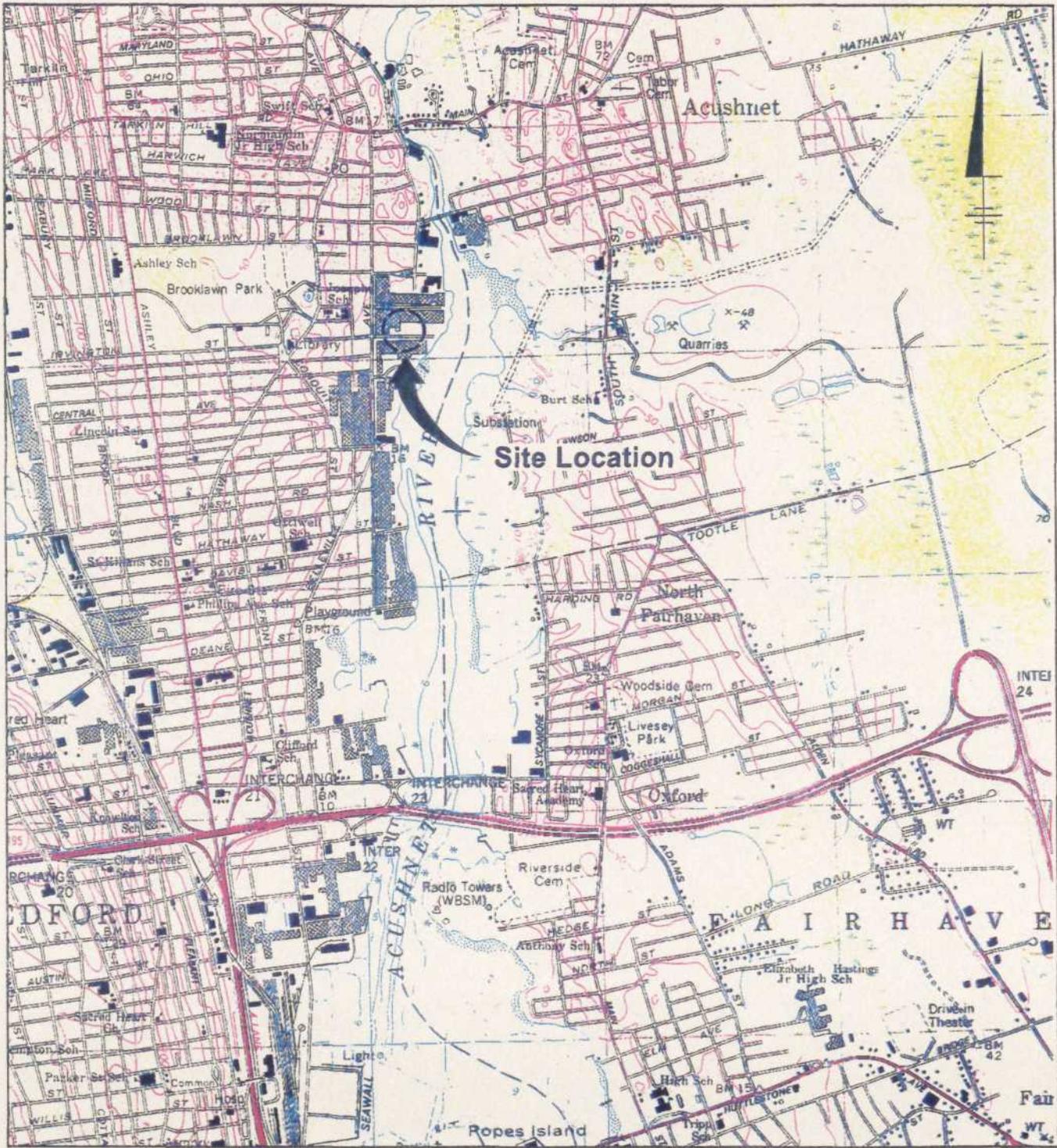
Alternative 3:

- Demolition of the building. Demolition debris which does not contain PCBs greater than or equal to 50 ppm would be placed as backfill within the below-grade portions.
- Remove the entire foundation concrete slab.
- Remaining demolition debris shipped to an appropriate offsite disposal and/or treatment facility.
- Cover the building footprint with clean fill and cap the entire site.

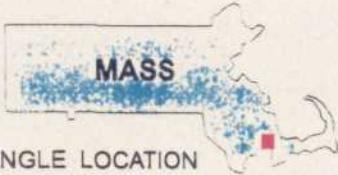
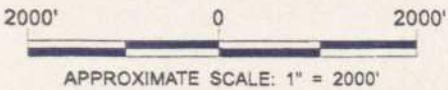
Table 1
Comparison of Cleanup Alternatives

The Criteria	Alternative-1* Foundation Concrete Slab remains	Alternative-2 Portion of Foundation Concrete Slab Removed	Alternative-3 Entire Foundation Concrete Slab Removed
<i>EFFECTIVENESS</i> (meets standards and protects public health and the environment)	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>IMPLEMENTABILITY</i> (can it be done?)	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>COST</i>	\$8.3 million	\$9.7 million	\$11.3 million
<i>MADEP ACCEPTANCE</i>	To be determined after the public comment period		
<i>COMMUNITY ACCEPTANCE</i>	To be determined after the public comment period		
<i>TIME TO REACH CLEANUP GOAL</i>	up to 5 years	up to 5 years	up to 5 years

* EPA's preferred alternative
 No Does not meet criterion
 Yes Meets or exceeds criterion



REFERENCE: NEW BEDFORD NORTH, MASS. USGS QUADS., 7.5 MIN. SERIES, 1979.



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Aerovox INC.
 740 BELLEVILLE AVE., NEW BEDFORD, MA 02745 USA
 ENGINEERING EVALUATION/COST ANALYSIS (EE/CA)

SITE LOCATION PLAN

BBL

BLASLAND, BOUCK & LEE, INC.
 engineers & scientists

FIGURE
 1

