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SITE: New Bedford
BREAK: 14.01
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To:
Congressman Barney Frank
2404 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515



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Dear Congressman Frank:

This information is being presented to you in order that you may better understand the matters that have recently developed concerning the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site.

as of 2-26-96 New Bedford Harbor Forum to meet and discuss on 2-28-96

FACT SHEET: FOR PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION PHASE 2

Approximately **660,00 cubic yards** of PCB and heavy metals between Coggeshall and Wood St. Bridges.

Each cubic yard is equal to 11/2 tons of sediment.

This does not include Navigational Dredging of over **500,000 cubic yards** that will need to be dredged for Navigational Waters.

If Navigational Dredging is not connected or married with Superfund the permitting process alone could hold up the Navigational Dredging for up to 5 to 10 years!

As you know Superfund does not need to go through the permitting process. This is why the marriage has taken place between the two. The EPA will be allowed to use the Navigational dredged material as capping substance which will also save a great deal of time and money for both projects. It is vital that the Coffin Avenue Cove at least in part be utilized as a CDF which would eliminate approximately **116,000 cubic yards**. The cost of removing or cleaning up the Coffin Avenue Cove will be over **\$15 million** alone. The money left in the New Bedford Harbor Superfund budget is **\$56 million to complete Phase 1 & 2, that is the sad fact from the EPA**. This material would need to be transported to a lesser contaminated area for disposal. Thereby, putting other lesser contaminated areas of the Harbor at risk. Just the dredging of the Coffin Avenue Cove area would put the health and safety of the public at risk due to airborne contamination of the PCB's/ also this is not putting the Coffin Avenue Cove area at greater risk but making it better. It is said that the EPA is trying to dump on an area that has suffered

enough, the truth is the people are at risk as it stands now . The park and playground as it is now has and is at risk if we leave it as it is . It is not the intention of the EPA to make it worse, but better. The material that would cap that area would be navigational material (clean as compared to Superfund standards) thereby not increasing risk as it would be to move it. Also, the public has been heard: "Clean up our Lagoon do not change it or cover it up". Right now there are plans to figure out a way to clean it up and place this sediment at another location. However, every time the sediment is moved it poses a threat. In order to get this project moving , it is our read that a compromise is on the horizon. This will be dealt with at the forum meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 28,1996. Unless the ROD is signed, all further activity of the clean up will be post poned

To give you an idea of how much sediment is to be confined think of 10 football fields piled end to end up to 25 feet.

The ROD must be signed and accepted by the community to begin.

If the Coffin Avenue Cove is used it is estimated that **270,000 cubic yards** of sediment can be stored in this CDF thereby eliminating the need to place **386,000** cubic yards in another area.

The residents living at the Coffin Avenue area are at higher risk by 100 times now as opposed to if a CDF at the Cove were to be utilized.

This information has been given to us several times at different meetings and at this point with only \$56 million left in the Superfund it is questionable that this money would be enough to complete Phase 1 & 2.

If the Coffin Avenue Cove (CDF 1) is **not** used at all we will need Congress to release extra funding from the Superfund Account to complete this project. Yes, we are talking time and money but it is a reality unfortunately.

Can Navigational Dredging begin before the ROD 2 is signed?

Possibly, due to the Seaport Bond Bill Funding. (see Captain Taylor, Maritime Terminal or Rep. Bill Straus or Roland Pepin for further explanation).

However, if the Coffin Avenue Cove Area is forced to be cleaned no one really knows the exact amount of contaminated sediment would be need to be relocated, it is has been estimated at 116,000 cubic yards. (but could this take the place of 116,000 cubic yards of navigational dredged material?????)

In other words, it makes it necessary to move app. **270,000** cubic yards of the highest contaminated material downstream to a cleaner harbor area, which will be used commercially in the future).

How long does it take to get ROD 2 signed and begun?

ROD2 could be signed as early as late 1996 and dredging could begin as soon as one CDF is constructed.

How long to build a CDF?

The time to build a CDF could take between 2 to 6 months depending on size, weather and specifications.

The fight about social injustice is not appropriate because it is making a very bad situation better. It is not dumping on a already hurt residential area - it is improving their air and social qualities. The fight was begun by a group that does not understand the impact that it will eliminate on the neighborhood, they are not listening and are lead by a group that does not know how to compromise, does not understand these are temporary CDF's , this group grabs only what they want to hear, instilling fear of the unknown into the neighborhood and are not reaching out to the affected residents, they only know how to fight not to disseminate information for the greater good. In other words, they do not know how to compromise only to fight, and when they get what they want do not follow through to insure that the best is being done. Examples of this are clearly shown when they do not show up for Treatability meetings , Dredging meetings to part of the solution. They only fight but don't follow through when the technical stuff needs to be acknowledged and accepted. When the dredging of the highest concentration of PCB's and heavy metals occurred, after the untimely absence of David Hammond, no one from that group was there to protect the interests of the people. If we become part of the solution very often our ideas are heard and implemented as was the case of extra air monitors, cover for the CDF at Sawyer St. and shut down when the levels were too high .

Exact locations and capacity of proposed CDF's?

CDF 1 - Coffin Avenue Cove - approximate volume **270,000** cubic yards of contaminated material

CDF 1B - Rear of the Aerovox Company - approximate volume **90,000** cubic yards extends 1700 ft. in length 200 ft. Width 8 ft. above high time level with storm

barrier walls (similar to Hurricane Barrier) This CDF as the crow flies is closer to the residents of Acushnet than the residents of New Bedford.

CDF 7 - Volume 120,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment, will be capped with Navigational Dredged material (this CDF may possibly be extended to hold more material which will extend the property level of the Maritime ownership of that area: EPA is at this time negotiating with the City of New Bedford and potential owners, it could eliminate some of the storage needed for the Coffin Avenue Cove CDF 1 , but to think that it could hold all of the material for CDF 1 is unrealistic to put the Coffin Avenue Cove CDF 1 sediment in the proposed CDF 3 (Fairhaven) would eliminate the much needed space for Navigational dredged material of Fairhaven.

Navigational CDF's which will also be used other than CDF 7 are : CDF 10 and CDF 10A

are right inside the Hurricane Barrier Palmer's Island which between the two will hold approximately **267,000** cubic yards. This is a much lesser contaminated material mostly below 10 parts per million. Palmer's Island is unusable for commercial or recreational use due to it consisting of ledge and stone.

It is crucial that we gain support and understanding with Congressman Frank in this matter. Enclosed please find informational documents that outline the proposed CDF's as well as Hands Across the River most recent **Newsletter** to be reviewed in detail, this newsletter demonstrates the willingness to fight as opposed to working together to find a solution acceptable to all.

Hope that this information is helpful . If further clarification is needed please contact us . It is crucial that the right information is being sent out, perception is one thing, reality is another. There is not as much opposition as indicated in the Standard Times, please read The Advocate for more rounded viewpoints. The majority of the people that attended and spoke at the meeting was not representative of the neighborhood, ask the EPA for sign in sheet for that meeting date.

We feel sure that a solution is near .Congressman Frank needs to know and understand the **FACTS** and that the EPA and dedicated citizens are working toward a solution. No one really likes to think of the reality of CDF's however, it is the best we have to work with now. Also, if this ROD 2 does not get signed soon,

it is our information that the new Superfund will **not** have to deal with Destruction only Confinement. If this happens, all our hard work is for not. At present, the CDF's will only be considered temporary, and any technology that comes along as possible cure will have to be revisited in the five year span. That is our only assurance that the CDF's will eventually be treated . It is important to remember that the alternative to INCINERATION has not been chosen, Treatability Studies are set to begin in April and finished in July. Then and only then will we know what technologies are out there to dispose of the PCB's currently being stored at the CDF located at the foot of Sawyer Street. It is our hope we will find an alternative. If we find an alternative it is quite possible the CDF's will be treated in the future if we can get past this road block about CDF locations for Phase 2.

For your information alot of talk and fear is being spread about leakage of the proposed CDF's and leaving these CDF's untreated. Information has been given to the public time and time again. It is our thought that these facts have not been heard. If we become part of the solution, we can be involved in the specific engineering of the CDF's and are working with a Technical Advisor who has been made possible by the accepting the EPA TAG grant, this group is called Citizens For A Clean Harbor. We have been involved in all aspects of the remediation and including the dredging and now the Treatability Studies. It is because we have a Technical Advisor, of our choice that we can confidently feel the best is being done. We have been gathering information and monitoring what is being done at the EPA Superfund Site.

Leakage of CDF's will be minimal for the first 3 - 5 years (much less than we deal with on a day to day basis now) and as time goes on will virtually be eliminated due to the natural compacting and de-watering process. There is no magic cure - Due to the Sea Change Forum we were able to listen to and question the top in the fields dealing with toxic waste and most recently attended a private session with Dr. Gswend at MIT concerning the feasibility of Bioremediation which he stated is at least 50 years away . We also spoke to him at length about CDF's pros and cons and his advise was that it is our only option now, to corral the sediment and keep an eye out for new ways to treat it in the future. This meeting was attended by Carol Sans of Downwind Coalition, Jim Simmons of Hands Across the River Coalition and Claudia Kirk of Concerned Parents of Fairhaven. If Bioremediation was a possibility and a reality don't you think GE would be using it. As they have spent millions in research to find a solution to Hudson River Valley project. We hope this clears up some of the misconceptions and puts reality back into the picture. Thank you for your time, and all the tireless efforts that you always put forth.

Sincerely,

Claudia Kirk - Concerned Parents of Fairhaven Representative on New Bedford Harbor Superfund Forum - President of Citizens For A Clean Harbor- Dredging Sub-Committee - Treatability Committee - New Bedford Harbor Trustee Council Restoration Crab Alternate - New Bedford / Fairhaven Master Harbor Plan

Roland R. Pepin - Town of Acushnet PCB Representative at the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Forum - Chairman, Dredging Sub-Committee - Treatability Committee - Navigational Dredging Sub- Committee - New Bedford Harbor Trustee Council Restoration Crab Member and member of Citizens For A Clean Harbor

We have listed the names of the organizations and committees that we serve in order that you realize our involvement in the New Bedford Harbor Remediation and Restoration.

ENCLOSURES