

-1600063
D. Dickerson
4.1.96



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I
JOHN F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203-0001



SDMS DocID 000200882

April 25, 1996

Honorable John Kerry
Member, U.S. Senate
One Bowdoin Square
Tenth Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Department of Health Center
100 New Bedford
MA 01901 (4.01)

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Attn: Ms. Jennifer Miller

Dear Senator Kerry:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of your constituent, Monique Frechette of New Bedford, Massachusetts concerning the second phase of cleanup at the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site.

As you may know, over the last year the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) together with a mediated community Forum group have been involved in extensive discussions about many of the same issues of concern to ms. Frechette. These include the reliability of the proposed phase two confined disposal facilities (CDFs), the siting locations of CDFs - especially the Coffin Avenue lagoon site, and the perception of environmental injustice associated with this site.

Through the Forum process, EPA has worked hard to develop a cleanup approach that is protective of human health and the environment, cost-effective and locally supportable. As a result, CDFs are now recognized as a safe way to isolate the 500,000 cubic yards of phase two sediments. EPA initially chose to locate one of the phase two CDFs in the Coffin Avenue lagoon due to engineering and remedial considerations. However, after listening to the concerns of residents living there, an alternative location to this lagoon has been successfully proposed. All proposed CDFs are now located in industrial areas, away from residential areas. Once the cleanup is complete, the entire community will be able to enjoy a remarkably healthier Acushnet River environment.

EPA-New England appreciates your interest in this site. The answer to its challenges are not always easy but we believe there are solutions that everyone can live with. If you have any further questions, please contact me or Al Frezza, Office of Government Relations at (617) 565-3162.

Sincerely,

John P. DeVillars
Regional Administrator

FILE COPY