

MEMORANDUM



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DATE: May 17, 1985

SUBJ: Acushnet River, New Bedford, MA,
Site access above the Coggeshall St. Bridge

TO: Merrill S. Hohman, Director, Waste Management Division

FROM: Jackie Prince, MA/CT/VT Site Response Section JP

On May 16, 1985, Yee Cho of DEQE, Lori Stevenson of Mass. DPH, and I drove and walked around the west and east banks of the Acushnet River Estuary above the Coggeshall Street Bridge. The purpose of this site visit was to fully investigate possible access areas, noting those areas designated in an August 15, 1984 letter from Richard Bird (National Campaign Against Toxic Hazards) to Gerry Sotolongo of EPA. A summary of our recommendations is as follows:

- Priority #1: Fencing approx. 150 yds. along the north side of the Coffin St. Cove; direct access from a playground and signs of use combined with the known high PCB levels make this area a high priority. Fencing would be an effective measure as it would connect with existing fences.
- Priority #2: Re-posting signs in the River and posting signs in key mudflat areas (actually on shore).
- Priority #3: Sampling this summer of the water column in the vicinity of the Wood St. Bridge and Tarkiln Hill Bridge to determine contamination levels as this area is easily accessible and inviting. Very low levels are suspected as this area is above Aerovox.
- Priority #4: Requests to several companies along the western shore to keep their gates closed whenever possible.

Although the east side wetlands are accessible through dirt paths, etc., this area is heavily overgrown and has no natural barriers to provide fencing endpoints. EPA would have to fence most of this side to effectively restrict public access. These recommendations will be expanded in a trip report for the files, with the state's concurrence.

