

The following is a summary of written and oral comments expressed during the public comment period concerning the remedial alternatives proposed for the New Bedford PCB hot spots in the Acushnet River Estuary.

- The "no action" alternative - proposed mainly as an evaluation guideline for other alternatives - was overwhelmingly rejected.
- Hydraulic control and sediment capping was referred to as a "band-aid" approach to the problem. Damage to the existing environment and the future burden of responsibility placed on the community in future years were two reasons cited against employment of this option. The option having the lowest cost estimate does not necessarily make it the most technically sound option.
- Residents do not want a remedial alternative chosen that will cure one problem and cause another. This refers to the upland disposal alternative, in which contaminated sediments would be transported to an upland area. Residents do not want a clean area contaminated and are concerned that any transport of PCB-tainted material would further spread the contamination.
- Dr. Philip T. Gidley of the Gidley Research Laboratory favors two of the options:
  - (1) Rechanneling the upper river but containing and capping the PCB-tainted sediment (hydraulic control option), and
  - (2) dredging the upper river and relocating the contaminated material to a nearby location where it would be contained in a lined and bottomless structure. A bottom-lined structure is unnecessary as PCBs do not penetrate through soil.
- The remedial alternative of biodegradation should be more thoroughly investigated; it is requested that EPA direct NUS to document and make public any criticisms of this technique. Otherwise, as State Representative Roger R. Goyette stated, "exclusion of the biodegradation option may be publicly perceived as a bias and arbitrary ruling by EPA."
- Several people expressed the <sup>OPINION</sup> option that the western shoreline should be used to contain the contaminated soil and not the eastern shoreline as proposed.
- One resident believes that incineration of the PCB-contaminated material is the best alternative, but she recognizes the high costs that would be incurred if this option were employed.