

134.30

NEW BEDFORD HARBOR SUPERFUND SITE
MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 1995
6:00 P.M.
Greater New Bedford
Vocational High School

Superfund Records Center
SITE: New Bedford
BREAK: 13.4.30
OTHER: 274574



SDMS DocID 274574

AGENDA

- Report from Ebasco on the bench scale subcontractor
- Report on dredging
- Report on maintenance/remedial dredging coordination
- ROD 2 proposal
 - Responses to issues raised in earlier meetings
 - Location issues
 - Review of CDF materials provided by agencies
 - New issues
- Sea Change proposal update
- Planning for public session
- Funding issues
- Schedule of meetings

Summary of Meeting Held September 20, 1995
of the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site

In attendance at the session were:

Facilitators

Michael Keating
Jane Wells

HATR

Steve Cassidy
Jim Simmons
Barry Star

Concerned Parents of Fairhaven

Claudia Kirk

New Bedford City Council

George Rogers

DEP

Paul Craffey
David Janik
Allexe Law-Flood
Helen Waldorf

New Bedford Mayor's Office

Molly Fontaine

New Bedford Harbor Development
Commission

Martin Manley

Downwind Coalition

Neal Balboni
Diana Cobbold
Carol Sanz

NOAA

Jack Terrill

State Elected Official

Rep Bill Straus

EPA

Cynthia Catri
Frank Ciavattieri
David Dickerson
Kristine Laumeyer

Town of Acushnet

Roland Pepin

Approximately ten members of the public observed the meeting, which was videotaped for subsequent broadcast on local cable television.

Alan Fowler from Ebasco identified the subcontractors selected to conduct the bench-scale treatability work. The subcontractors selected were World Environmental and Marcor. They will begin bench-scale testing of admixtures for binding or stabilizing PCBs and metals within the next four to six weeks.

The dredging subcommittee reported completion of the hot spot dredging. There will be a continuing need to monitor the CDF until treatment of the materials is completed, and the dredging subcommittee will continue to meet with agency personnel to coordinate further monitoring, although presumably on a reduced schedule. A public event to mark the finish of dredging for the first phase of the remedial work was held on September 21.

The Core Group, created to keep current with the development of treatability studies, is scheduled to meet on October 5 at 12:30 p.m. at the Sawyer Street site. Interested folk are invited to attend.

Allexe Law-Flood reported on the agencies' efforts to develop a more meaningful public involvement plan. DSP is preparing a document for wide public distribution that will recount remedial efforts to date and explain pending proposals for further remedies. The purpose is to make information on the project more broadly available and to elicit public response and input. The plan envisions a series of interviews with a broad spectrum of people in the areas to be affected by the next phase of the project.

Bill Straus reported on the latest meeting of the subcommittee on the coordination of maintenance and remedial dredging, which was well attended. The meeting focused on the complex permitting process associated with maintenance dredging. Future meetings will look at the possibility of expanding the use of navigational dredging spoils to enhance the effectiveness of the storage of remedial spoils. The next meeting of the subcommittee is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on October 20 at the Marine Terminal.

The Forum next considered the response of the agencies to questions raised during the last two meetings about the Phase 2 ROD proposal. The questions dealt with the potential leakage of heavy metals and the length of time required for the dredged sediments to settle within the CDFs. Information on the leaching characteristics of copper was provided, because experiments have indicated that this particular metal is likely to be the most problematic. Leakage of copper from the CDFs is projected to be much lower than that of PCBs. The agencies confirmed that the anticipated settling period for the contaminated sediments in the CDFs will be from three to five years, during which time, of course, the CDFs cannot be permanently capped or used for other purposes.

The agencies also provided information on other sites around the country where CDFs have been used for the storage of contaminated materials. Questions arose about the comparability of these sites with New Bedford in regard to the extent of materials stored, the degree of contamination and surrounding environments. EPA promised to provide information on the nature of the neighborhoods within which these other facilities are located. None of the other sites described seemed to be dealing with concentrations of PCBs close to those involved in New Bedford.

EPA also provided more information on the location and parameters of the proposed CDFs. The size of proposed CDF 1B, which extends considerably into the Acushnet River raised questions about the impact of the structure on the flow and contours of the river. Frank Clavattierri, at the urging of several Forum members, offered to try to develop some graphics that might give a better idea of how the structure will look from different perspectives.

Jim Simmons presented to the Forum copies of a petition (attached) signed by abutters and neighbors in the vicinity of proposed CDF 1B, who voiced their objection to any plan that called for filling in the lagoon or cove presently on the site. A HATR suggestion that whatever treatment process might eventually be applied to the hot spot sediments in the Sawyer Street CDF should also be applied to the spoils destined for CDF 1B, thereby eliminating the need for the CDF, was discussed. The agencies responded that CDF 1B is scheduled to contain 270,000 cubic yards of spoils and is, by far, the largest of the three planned CDFs. Even after treatment, which would reduce the contamination within the sediments but not significantly change their bulk,