



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I

JOHN F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203-0001



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Superfund Records Center

SITE: New Bedford

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OTHER: 46268

December 31, 1996

Dennis Perry, Project Manager
ComElectric
2421 Cranberry Highway
Wareham, MA 02751

Re: Submerged Power Cables at the New Bedford Harbor
Superfund Site

Dear Mr. Perry,

I am writing to update ComElectric on the status of EPA's proposed "phase 2" cleanup of New Bedford Harbor, and to continue our discussion of alternative methods of dealing with the submerged power cables located in contaminated sediments.

As a result of our last meeting in July 1996, it is now EPA's understanding that the preferred approach to this problem is to significantly reduce the overall width of the cable corridor. This would allow for increased remedial dredging, and would be consistent with ComElectric's preferred approach for placement of the new 115 kVA power line currently scheduled for completion in 1999 or 2000. From a conceptual standpoint, implementation of this corridor reduction would involve placement of the new (armored) cable near the two existing "pipe type" cables to form the locus of the new corridor. The other (eleven?) existing cables could then be relocated into this corridor, possibly within new ducting, while maintaining the two existing "tie-in" locations on both shores of the Acushnet River.

Two other potential concepts were also discussed at the July meeting. One involved putting a geotextile material over the entire existing cable corridor, with no relocation of the existing cables. The other involved a new system of cables and appurtenances that could be incorporated into the confined sediment disposal facilities (or CDFs) on the western shore.

With regard to the status of EPA's cleanup plans, EPA last month issued its formal "Proposed Cleanup Plan" for upper and lower New Bedford Harbor for public comment. Consistent with the above discussion, the Proposed Plan describes EPA's proposal to reduce the width of the cable corridor, but also discusses the potential for various other remedies to this problem. This Proposed Plan is attached for your review; see the first paragraph on page 6 for the discussion of the cable corridor issue. We are accepting comments through January 23, 1997 should ComElectric desire to submit formal comments.



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Finally, to facilitate the planning process for this issue I have also attached an overhead illustration showing the locations of the three upper harbor CDFs. EPA requests that ComElectric indicate the locations and types of all existing and planned submerged power cables on this figure, and return it to us at your earliest convenience. If you need a larger size figure for this effort, please let me know and it will be provided.

EPA looks forward to continued cooperation in regards to this submerged cable problem. Please let us know if we have misrepresented any of the technical issues involved. If you have any questions in this matter please do not hesitate to contact me at 617/573-5735.

Sincerely,



David Dickerson
Remedial Project Manager

Enclosures

cc: Cynthia Catri, EPA
Larry Brill, EPA
Paul Craffey, MA DEP
Christopher Sallese, USACE