



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

Superfund Records Center

SITE: New Bedford

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December 9, 1997

Dennis Perry  
Project Manager  
Commonwealth Electric Company (COM/Electric)  
2421 Cranberry Highway  
Wareham, MA 02571



SDMS DocID **46280**

Re: Submerged power cables in the Acushnet River

Dear Mr. Perry,

EPA is interested in working cooperatively with COM/Electric to resolve issues presented by the submerged power cables in the highly PCB-contaminated Acushnet River sediments. As a result of a series of meetings beginning in June 1995 EPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) and COM/Electric have agreed to a conceptual approach for subsurface replacement of the existing cables that allows EPA to move forward with its remedial action for New Bedford Harbor. This letter serves to briefly outline this agreed-upon approach, with its scope limited to the existing cables: the Agency does not view installation of the new power cable COM/Electric is currently pursuing to be part of this arrangement.

First, COM/Electric will obtain more detailed technical and cost information regarding the construction and installation of directionally-drilled replacement cables. COM/Electric will procure the services of specialized consultants to assist in this more detailed project evaluation. EPA will share in the cost of this initial consulting work, provided the amount of EPA's cost share does not exceed \$25,000. The vehicle for this cost sharing will be a contract between COM/Electric and the Corps, to be underwritten by EPA. This contract will require production of the new cost and technical information by a specific date, and will be audited upon completion by the Corps. EPA has instructed the Corps to begin negotiating this contract with COM/Electric as soon as possible.

Upon receipt of this updated cost and technical information, and assuming this new information points to a cost-effective project, the second step would be for COM/Electric and EPA to enter into a final agreement for installation of the replacement cables. COM/Electric's current cost estimate for this replacement cable project, as presented to EPA in August 1997, is \$4,433,000. Assuming a fair agreement can be reached, EPA envisions a second contract between COM/Electric and the Corps (again underwritten by



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EPA and audited by the Corps) to cover the actual implementation of the project. EPA would become involved in those contract negotiations as well.

EPA looks forward to our continued coordination on this important project. Please feel free to call me at 617/573-5735 should you have any questions in this regard.

Sincerely,



David Dickerson  
Remedial Project Manager

cc: C. Catri  
P. Craffey  
C. Sallese  
M. Beaudoin  
A. Fowler