

4.9.16

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
NEW ENGLAND  
J.F.K. FEDERAL BUILDING, BOSTON, MA 02203-2211

MEMORANDUM

Superfund Records Center  
SITE: NEW BEDFORD  
BREAK: 4.9  
OTHER: 46621

DATE: January 3, 1997

SUBJ: PCB Discharge limits at New Bedford Superfund Site

FROM: Larry Brill, Chief *Larry Brill*  
Remediation & Restoration I Branch

TO: Ron Manfredonia, Jane Downing, Dave Pincumbe, Dave Dickerson

This memo is to summarize the meeting held to discuss the Superfund clean up of New Bedford Harbor and the discharge of supernatant from the Confined Disposal Facilities (CDFs). The CDFs are being constructed adjacent to the shoreline to contain the contaminated PCB sediment from the harbor. The CDFs will have a temporary discharge to the harbor of highly treated supernatant as the sediments consolidate and additional sediments are placed into the CDFs.

The superfund cleanup will remove sediments in the harbor to PCB limits of 10PPM in the upper harbor and 50PPM in the lower harbor. The cleanup will allow for the restoration of fishing in the harbor in approximately 10 years. As a partial TMDL the amount of PCB taken out of the harbor water environment versus the tiny amount that will be discharged on a temporary basis is significant. It will allow for the long term goal of fishable.

As discussed at the meeting, based on present field data the advance treatment system proposed to treat the CDF supernatant will yield a discharge below the present detectable limit of 0.065 ug/l for PCBs. The treatment will allow the temporary discharge to support the clean up goal of restoring the harbor in ten years. Although this is above the proposed water quality limit, it is the present detection limit and as stated will allow for the restoration of the harbor and the discharge will receive advance waste treatment.

The discharge limits that will be achieved will be below the detection limit for each Arochlor which will be set at 0.065 ug/l. This number is higher than the water quality criteria number and the present water quality in the upper harbor is not meeting WQS, however, as stated, the combination of a temporary discharge as part of an overall TMDL improvement and the long term restoration of the harbor allows the discharge limit to be set based at the present detection limits for the length of the discharges.

This approach is consistent with the TMDL proposal for copper being discharged from the CDFs after the copper is removed from the aquatic environment and placed with the sediments into the CDFs.