

Superfund Records Center

SITE: NEW BEDFORD

BREAK: 5.3

OTHER: 46669

November 22, 1996

Mr. David Dickerson  
Remedial Project Manager  
U.S.EPA, Region I  
JFK Federal Building, HBO  
Boston, MA 02203

(23)

5.3.26

Dear Mr. Dickerson:

My name is Joe DeMedeiros and I am a student at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth. I am currently in two courses involved with environmental studies. These courses have opened my eyes to a subject that, I think, goes somewhat ignored in today's society. Fortunately, my studies have sensitized me to environmental problems and made me aware that they really do affect me.

Recently an EPA newsletter explaining the proposed cleanup plan for upper and lower New Bedford Harbor was made available to me. Being a life-long resident of New Bedford who as a child swam in these very waters, I became rather interested. The newsletter was very helpful in informing me of a problem I did not even know existed I must say, though, that I am very hesitant to accept the proposed cleanup plan. I am very uncomfortable with the use of confined disposal facilities (CDFs). My perspective on the use of CDFs is that it is a "band-aid" solution that will not solve the problem. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that these CDFs, after being capped, will not leak at some point in time. As a taxpayer, I do not see the reasoning in spending \$116 million on a plan that is not going to effectively solve the problem.

I am wondering whether or not there is a more effective way in which to deal with this problem. I truly believe that we should not spend these huge amounts of our money on methods that are going to lead to future problems that my children are going to have to take care of. There should be some serious research into methods, beyond those outlined in the newsletter, that will effectively solve this problem and make New Bedford Harbor what it once was.

I sincerely thank you for your time and would appreciate any further information you could provide me with regarding the New Bedford Harbor cleanup.

Sincerely,

*Joe DeMedeiros*  
Joe DeMedeiros

*NOSSY*