



6/20/83

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION I

J. F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203

William F. Lawless, Chief
Regulatory Branch, Operations Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
424 Trapelo Road
Waltham, MA 02254

Re: NEDOD-R-24-83-031C

Dear Mr. Lawless:

The City of New Bedford has requested Corps' authorization to retain fill placed prior to 1970 and to permit construction of a barge loading ramp for the R.M. Packer Corp. The Construction would require excavation of approximately 3,000 c.y. of material from the immediate shore, dredging 1,500 c.y. of the Acushnet River botton, rearrangement of existing stone rip-rap, placement of steel pile bulkhead, and installation of a counter-weighted loading ramp.

We have met with Mr. Joseph Forns of the Applied Marine Ecology Lab of Falmouth, Massachusetts, who is a consultant to the City of New Bedford for this project. He supplied us with additional information on this application as well as the adjacent unauthorized filled land that the City is requesting to be authorized.

We understand that in addition to the R.M. Packer development a 62,500 sq. ft. piece of this filled land will be leased to Mr. Rene Servais to develop a truck steam cleaning facility. A 50' by 92' building will be constructed on the site and contain equipment to service and clean fish hauling trucks in compliance with regulatory health codes.

We have no objection to the after-the-fact authorization of this fill for the development of the barge-transfer station, and the fish hauling truck steam cleaning facility. The permit should be conditioned to incorporate the following concerns.

1. We request to be given advance notice (at least three working days) as to the date that dredging will commence, so that we may observe part of the dredging operation.

2. In addition to the proposed sand filter, the ditch draining the filter area should be lined with a series of staked hay bales across the width of the ditch in order to filter out any remaining particulates in the dredge material effluent.

U.S. v. AVX Original
Litigation Document

Superfund Records Center

SITE: New Bedford

BREAK: 4.1

OTHER: 46697

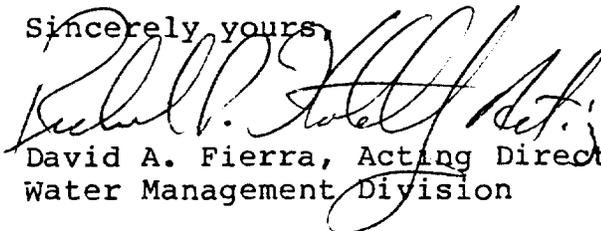
3. A monitoring system should be set up to assess the quantity of PCBs in the discharge. If the effluent PCB concentration exceeds the ambient PCB concentration in the discharge inlet by greater than 1.5 times, then the dredging operation will cease and additional filtering devices such as filter cloth shall be used to treat the effluent prior to discharge.

4. The Environmental Notification Form filed for this project states that a conventional shoreside crane with buckets will be used for the dredging. Mr. Joe Forns informed us that a special type of bucket, a 3-yard coring type, will be used which removes the sediments with a minimum of trapped water. We would like to have more information about this type of bucket and, if we believe it is the right type for the job, the permit should be conditioned to require its use.

5. Our comments pertain only to the application referenced above as described in the May 5, 1983, Public Notice. We understand the City is applying to retain 262,500 cubic yards of fill presently at locations to the immediate north of the North Terminal Bulkhead on the Acushnet River. We believe that filled area, as well as proposals to enlarge that area of fill, may be important to the Remedial Action Master Plan for the Clean up of the New Bedford Harbor PCB contamination problem. Therefore, any proposed development of those areas must be consistent with the Master Plan. We will supply further comments to your office concerning this after we receive a Public Notice concerning this fill.

For further coordination, please call Edward Reiner of my staff at 617/223-5470.

Sincerely yours,


David A. Fierra, Acting Director
Water Management Division

cc: USF&WS
NMFS
MA CZM (Harriet Diamond)
Joe Forns