

health

March 7, 1984

Superfund Records Center  
SITE: New Bedford  
BREAK: 3.01  
OTHER: 46721

Mr. Lee Thomas  
Assistant Administrator  
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I am forwarding for your review a proposal for a Greater New Bedford (Massachusetts) Polychlorinated Biphenyl Health Survey to be funded by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (Superfund). This proposal was developed by the Division of Environmental Health Assessment, Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Staff scientists in the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Center for Environmental Health have reviewed the proposal and discussed it in detail with officials from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In the opinion of the CDC reviewers, it is of sound scientific merit and should be carried out.

Interest at CDC is such that they propose to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with Massachusetts to conduct the proposed study jointly. In our opinion, this is an appropriate funding mechanism since there are clearly points of the study best performed by each of the respective groups.

Massachusetts has estimated the costs for their work under the proposal at about \$1.0 million. Funding would be in two phases: \$700,000 and \$300,000 respectively; with the second phase contingent on positive findings in phase one. CDC costs would be considerably less, and are estimated to be in the range of \$75,000 - \$100,000 for both phases. Actual costs of the proposal are, of course, subject to change as the Cooperative Agreement must be negotiated with the Commonwealth. It is most likely that the actual costs would be 10-20 percent less than the budget estimates.

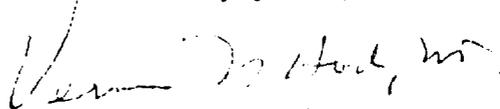
Page 2 - Lee Thomas

We are requesting a tentative decision by your office on your willingness to support this study. If you agree in principal that it should be conducted and can be funded by Superfund, we will ask CDC to negotiate a Cooperative Agreement and submit the detailed budget request for the study to you for final review and approval.

If you or your staff have questions about this proposal, please call Daniel C. VanderMeer, Executive Officer, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry at FTS 236-4113.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,



Vernon N. Houk, M.D.  
Assistant Administrator

**Enclosure**

CDC:CEH:DVanderMeer:ms 3-7-84  
Doc. 1112R

cc:  
CDC/W  
OD  
FMO