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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

# Department of Environmental Protection

Superfund Records Center  
SITE: NEW BEDFORD  
BREAK: 9.1  
OTHER: 47211

**William F. Weld**  
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**Trudy Coxe**  
Secretary, EDEA  
**Thomas B. Powers**  
Acting Commissioner

June 15, 1994

Ms. Suzanne Condon, Director  
Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment  
Department of Public Health  
7th Floor  
150 Tremont St.  
Boston, MA 02111

Subject: Institutional Controls  
Fish Market Monitoring  
New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site

Dear Ms. Condon:

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is writing to support any efforts the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) may undertake regarding monitoring of fish sold in local markets in the New Bedford area for elevated PCB and metals contamination. As you are aware, DEP is currently working with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on the remedial plan for the remainder of the New Bedford Harbor National Priorities List (NPL) site. This plan is designed to mitigate the risk of exposure to PCBs and metals remaining in the estuary, harbor, and bay sediments and waters after the Hot Spot sediments (those greater than 4,000 parts per million) are removed.

Part of the DEP's responsibility on Superfund Sites include evaluating the need and suggesting Institutional Controls to ensure that the implemented remedy is protective of human health and the environment. In the case of the New Bedford Harbor Site, the Institutional Controls could include but are not limited to the following: monitoring of seafood; enforcement of the fishing ban; local education about the potential risks of the Site; and posting and maintenance of signs.

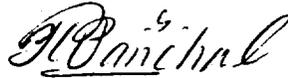
Monitoring of the seafood by sampling local fish markets and restaurants may be one the most important aspect of the Institutional Control program. Since, one route of exposure that poses health concerns is the ingestion of PCB and metal contaminated fish. It is possible that enforcement of the fishing ban promulgated by the MDPH may not be sufficient in preventing such exposure and we believe that a public awareness

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program informing the Greater New Bedford community of the hazards associated with consumption of seafood caught from restricted areas may be helpful towards this end. Monitoring of seafood sold in local markets for elevated PCBs and metals would be an important component of this program.

The DEP is looking forward to working with the MDPH on this valuable endeavor and if you have any questions or further needs, please do not hesitate to contact the DEP's Project Manager, Paul Craffey, at (617) 292-5591.

Sincerely,



Harish Panchal,  
Branch Chief

cc: Gayle Garman, USEPA