

September 2, 2010

Mr. David Dickerson
New Bedford Harbor Superfund Project
USEPA, OSRR07-4
5 Post Office Square – Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109 - 3912

Dear Mr. Dickerson,

I am writing to express my full support of the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site Operable Unit 1 – Lower Harbor Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) Cell - Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD).

As a business owner with a water dependant use business in New Bedford/Fairhaven Harbor, my business has been impacted, and I have been personally impacted, by the presence of contaminants such as PCB's in the sediment in New Bedford/Fairhaven Harbor. Prior to the City of New Bedford, Town of Fairhaven, and the State of Massachusetts implementing their own navigational dredge program using CAD Cells, no dredging had been completed in the Harbor for nearly 50-years, because of the presence of the PCB's and metals in the sediments. The Harbor and the Port are the life blood of the communities that surround it. One hundred years ago, the Port of New Bedford was one of the most productive and prosperous Ports in the region. For 50-years however, Harbor maintenance was neglected because of the contaminants, and the environment and the population have suffered dramatically. The once booming economy stagnated, and marine commerce plummeted. Only through the recent efforts that have been undertaken by local and state officials in the form of the Navigational Dredge Projects has the tide begun to change, and hope of revitalizing the Harbor and the community has re-emerged.

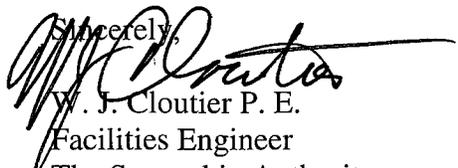
I have come to understand that a large factor in the success of the navigational dredging is the use of CAD Cells in the Harbor, which were permitted by Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management a few years ago as a safe and secure method for disposing of PCB and metals contaminated sediments. As part of the local and state navigational dredge program, my own facility was dredged recently. Prior to local/state dredging project, I could not have even conceived of maintaining the slips and fairways to my facility – the presence of contaminants made it virtually impossible for me to consider dredging. The dredging at my facility has made all the difference in the world to my business, allowing me to continue and expand operations. I am also aware that the navigational dredging has removed contaminated sediments from contact with the Harbor water, and am extremely pleased to see that benefit to the Harbor environment as well. I am not aware of any negative impact that occurred either during or after the dredging that occurred in front of my facility, and I found the operation to dredge sediments and place them in a CAD Cell both safe and effective. I have come to understand that the PCB and metals contaminants that are in the sediments of this Harbor mainly stick to the fine grained organic sediment particles and generally do not vaporize into the air. During the dredging that occurred

at my facility, I am aware of no issues associated with odor or vapors from the dredge operation, and am convinced that the dredging of this sediment and placing it in a CAD Cell is safe and effective.

As a resident of the area, I am very concerned about the pace of the cleanup remedy and the environmental impact of allowing the PCB and metals contaminated sediments to remain on the Harbor bottom in direct contact with the ecosystem for as long as the EPA currently estimates the remedy could take. I have become aware of the very real danger to the environment, and by extension to the food chain, that contaminated sediments represent. Every day, animals and plants that live in and/or frequent the Harbor waters are taking in contaminants and accumulating them up through the food chain. Every additional day that contaminated sediments remain in direct contact with the environment, the ecosystem suffers, and the effect spreads farther out into the food chain, providing a human health risk. As such, I believe that every effort to speed the cleanup must be advanced, to lessen as much as possible the ecosystem and human health risks.

I am very appreciative of the efforts that the EPA has undertaken, and continues to undertake, in cleaning up the worst contaminated areas of the Harbor. I understand the challenges that the agency faces, which are formidable. However, I have recently become aware that the EPA estimates that, at the current rate of cleanup, the job will not be finished for approximately 46 more years. Considering that the EPA has been working on the cleanup for nearly 30-years, I am dismayed that it will take generations more to finish the job unless a change is made to the cleanup plan. I am please that the EPA is considering other options that will help expedite the cleanup of the Harbor, and am very supportive of the EPA's ESD to use CAD Cells in the Harbor to speed up the remedy.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my support for the EPA's ESD to use CAD Cells in the Lower Harbor. I believe that the plan represents a safe and effective approach to expediting the cleanup and knocking years off of the cleanup process. I know that I am joined by the majority of my fellow citizens and business people of the region when I say the contamination in the Harbor has long had a negative impact on the health and well being of the entire area, and we look forward to the day when the Harbor cleanup is complete and the Harbor can return to full utility.

Sincerely,

W. J. Cloutier P. E.
Facilities Engineer
The Steamship Authority



NBH CAD Cell Comment Letter

bcloutier o NBH Comments

09/10/2010 10:26 AM

Dear Sirs:

Please refer to the attached Comment letter.

Bill Cloutier
Facilities Engineering Manager



The Steamship Authority DOC162.PDF