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Superfund Records Center
SITE: New Bedford
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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 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 causing direct contact with the ecosystem for as long as the EPA currently estimates the remedy could take. I have become aware of the danger to the environment and 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 thus creating a human health risk. As such, I believe that every effort to speedup the cleanup must be made, to lessen the risks to the ecosystem and human health.

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. 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 very disappointed that it will take generations more to finish the job unless a change is made to the cleanup plan. I am pleased that the EPA is considering other options that will help expedite the cleanup of the Harbor, and I fully support 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 believe the contamination in the Harbor has long had a negative impact on the health and well being of the entire area, and I look forward to the day when the Harbor cleanup is complete and the Harbor can return to its full function.

Sincerely,

Jessica Smith

SDMS DocID 472678