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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I
JOHN F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203-0001

January 8, 1997

BY FAX AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Gary L. Gill-Austern, Esq.
Nutter, McClennen & Fish, LLP
One International Place
Boston, MA 02110-2699

Superfund Records Center

SITE: NEW BEDFORD

BREAK: 11.9

OTHER: 47440

RE: New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site
Proposed Plan--Upper and Lower Harbor

Dear Mr. Gill-Austern:

Thank you for your letter dated January 3, 1997 (and correction dated January 6, 1997) requesting an additional extension of the public comment period from January 23, 1997 to March 10, 1997 on the above Proposed Plan issued by EPA during the first week of November, 1996.

As you correctly noted, a number of documents were added to the Administrative Record on December 20, 1996. Therefore, in order to provide you and your client with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the preferred alternative as well as alternative plans under consideration and to participate in the selection of a remedial action at the site, the public comment period will be extended 45 days from December 20, and will now end on February 3, 1997.

Building the Administrative Record is a fluid process and does not end until the Record of Decision is issued. We expect that there will be documents added to the Record from time to time such as comment letters received on the Proposed Plan and relevant ongoing correspondence; however, we believe that any additional documents will not be significant and that the Record supports the Proposed Plan. If a new document is added, you will be notified.

Sincerely,

Cynthia E. Catri

Cynthia E. Catri
Senior Enforcement Counsel

cc: David Dickerson, EPA-RPM



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