



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I

JOHN F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203-0001

Superfund Records Center

SITE: NEW BEDFORD

BREAK: 13.1

OTHER: 47470

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Dave
DeLorson
9600091
13.1.32

April 25, 1996

Ms. Monique Frechette
492 North Front Street
New Bedford, MA 02746

Dear Ms. Frechette:

Thank you for your letter which was forwarded to EPA-New England by Senator Kennedy's office. Your letter concerned the second phase of cleanup at the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site.

As you may be aware, over the last year the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) together with a mediated community Forum group have been involved in extensive discussions about many of the same issues you raised in your letter. As a point of clarification, however, the phase two issues (e.g. the Coffin Avenue lagoon) are completely separate from the phase one or "hot spot" issues (e.g. incineration). EPA still plans to treat the hot spot sediments once a satisfactory alternative technology can be found. The phase two issues you raised include the reliability of the proposed confined disposal facilities (CDFs), the siting locations of CDFs - especially the Coffin Avenue lagoon site, and the perception of environmental injustice associated with this site.

Through the Forum process, EPA has worked hard to develop a cleanup approach that is protective of human health and the environment, cost-effective and locally supportable. As a result, CDFs are now recognized as a safe way to isolate the 500,000 cubic yards of phase two sediments. EPA initially chose to locate one of the phase two CDFs in the Coffin Avenue lagoon due to engineering and remedial considerations. However, after listening to the concerns of residents living there, an alternative location to this lagoon has been successfully proposed. All proposed CDFs are now located in industrial areas, away from residential areas. This and the fact that the Acushnet River environment will be remarkably healthier after the cleanup should allay your concerns about the phase two remedy.

EPA-New England appreciates your interest in this site. The answer to its challenges are not always easy but we believe there are solution that everyone can live with. If you have any further questions, please contact me or Al Frezza, Office of Government Relations at (617) 565-3162.

Sincerely,

John P. DeVillars
Regional Administrator

FILE COPY

cc: Honorable Edward M. Kennedy, United States Senate

Date: Feb. 20, 1996

United States Senate

MEMORANDUM

Respectfully referred to: Environmental Protection A.
John DeVillars
Regional Administrator
One Congress St., 10th Flr.
Boston, MA 022114

My assistance has been requested concerning the attached correspondence.

I am forwarding this to you for your attention and consideration, and would appreciate your prompt reply directly to the constituent, with a copy sent to me at:

2400A John F. Kennedy Federal Bldg.
Government Center
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



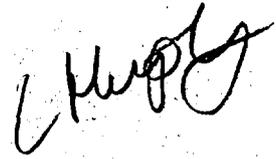
Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senator

For additional information,
please contact Mark at (617) 565-3170

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
FEB 23 1996
RECEIVED

492 North Front Street
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02746
08 February 1996

Senator Edward M. Kennedy
315 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510



Dear Senator Kennedy:

I am deeply disturbed about the EPA's uninformed and ill-advised decision to dump PCBs in heavily populated Ward 2 in New Bedford's North End. Further, I am intensely concerned about the fate of city residents who evidently don't have the ethnic background or per capita income required to be citizens with the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The hasty decision to bury PCBs is as ludicrous as the previous notion to burn them. Would you clean your house by stuffing all the trash under the rug? Of course not. Then why "clean" a river by burying all the toxins in our neighborhood? We need only to look at Sullivan's Ledge on Hathaway Road to see that burying toxins is a temporary and hazardous patch on an infected wound that surely will reopen, fester, pollute and kill.

Contrary to the EPA's unfounded belief that this area is uninhabited, thousands of residents surround this lagoon. Conceivably, a student at recess at the Ottiwell Elementary School could hit a baseball into this dump site. The majority of these people are of Portuguese descent. Many are the elderly who have lived and worked in the factories that have since closed. Admittedly, this section of Ward 2 is also home to many poor people. Because these people don't speak the same language or make as much money as the policy makers (a.k.a. Public Servants), their quality of life is not a concern. The EPA's actions once again demonstrate their willingness to use social, ethnic and economic discrimination as a viable public policy. The EPA will turn Coffin Avenue into a coffin.

Surely, if the pollutants were in a more affluent city, the EPA would consider safer, more cost-effective solutions. Turning Ward 2's main real estate asset, a waterfront, into an open pit of toxic waste is not a safe, effective, intelligent or just decision.

Policy makers are currently seeking federal assistance to grant the New Bedford waterfront National Park status. Does this status stop before the Ward 2 waterfront? Why aren't Ward 2 residents included in this revitalization plan? Surely, a safe, clean, revenue-generating park would improve the quality of life for Ward 2 residents and further unify the city. Why does the EPA want to fill in the lagoon and turn it into a toxic wasteland?

Please take a long, hard look at your decision making. One stroke of your pen could revitalize Ward 2 or turn it into an EPA embarrassment: a toxic eye-sore and testament to multi cultural intolerance and the un-American treatment of the poor.

Please consider a safe solution to this city-wide problem.

Sincerely,

Monique M. Frechette
Concerned Resident, Ward 2

ACTION: MURPHY
NO: 9600091
DUE DATE: 3/26/96
CC: RA
P. Fitzsimmons
K. Conroy
A. Frazier