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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
ONE WINTER STREET, BOSTON MA 02108 (617) 292-5500

Superfund Records Center  
SITE: NEW BEDFORD  
BREAK: 13.1  
OTHER: 47471

WILLIAM F. WELD  
Governor

ARGEO PAUL CELLUCCI  
Lt. Governor

TRUDY COXE  
Secretary

DAVID B. STRUHS  
Commissioner

March 25, 1996

Monique M. Frechette  
492 North Front St.  
New Bedford, MA 02746

Subject: New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site

Dear Ms. Frechette:

The Governor and Lieutenant Governor received your letter regarding the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site and referred them to my office for response. The Commonwealth has been very concerned about this Site since the mid-1970s, and in 1982 designated the site as the State's Priority Federal Superfund Site. The Governor, when he was the U.S. Attorney, filed the suit with the Commonwealth against the responsible parties at this Site.

For the past two years, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have been working through the New Bedford Harbor Forum to gain consensus on the cleanup of the estuary, harbor and bay. The Forum is comprised of local citizens, elected officials, and government agencies. EPA and DEP have heard the concerns of the local citizens about the use of the Coffin Avenue Lagoon. In response, EPA has proposed moving the disposal facilities to other locations in the estuary, and the local community and Forum members have indicated that they may be willing to accept the alternative disposal locations.

The existing site conditions pose significant risks to human health and the environment. There are significant risks due to consumption of PCB contaminated fish and shellfish, and direct contact risks from the Site. Any delay in the Estuary/Harbor/Bay cleanup will only increase the risk of PCB and metals exposure to humans and the environment. Each day about one pound of PCBs is transported under the Coggeshall Street Bridge via the tidal cycle into the Harbor, and about 1/2 pound is transported out of the Harbor into the Bay, making the contamination more widespread. EPA and DEP feel the proposed disposal facilities will be protective of human health and the environment by containing and significantly reducing the risks.

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EPA's Superfund remedial selection is an open process, and there has been and will continue to be an extensive ongoing public participation process related to this Site. The EPA is now drafting a Proposed Plan on the Site's remediation which is subject to review and comment by the public. The next Forum meetings are scheduled for March 26th at the Ford Middle School in Acushnet and April 10th at the Vocational High School in New Bedford. Both meetings are scheduled to start at 6:00 PM.

The DEP appreciates your concerns regarding the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site. If you have any comments or question please contact the DEP Project Manager, Paul Craffey, at (617) 292-5591. Thank you for your concern for our environmental cleanup programs.

Sincerely,



James C. Colman,  
Assistant Commissioner

JCC/PC/pg

cc: Trudy Coxe, Secretary of EOE  
Paul Taursi, Regional Administrator, DEP  
Dave Dickerson, U.S. EPA ✓  
Paul Craffey, DEP