

13.1.30



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: 47472

March 1, 1996

James B. Simmons
Hands Across the River Coalition
222 Union Street, Room 202
New Bedford, MA 02740

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Mr. Simmons,

Thank you for your letters to President Clinton and Administrator Browner of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concerning the New Bedford Harbor Superfund site. I apologize for the belatedness of this response, however the government shutdowns created a correspondence backlog.

The first issue you raised had to do with the applicability of the Eco-Logic treatment process for the phase 1 or "hot spot" sediments. As you know from subsequent discussions with EPA staff and the site's community Forum, Eco-Logic was not selected in the first procurement effort for pilot-scale treatability vendors, but they have the opportunity to resubmit an improved proposal as part of a second procurement effort. EPA will keep you and the Forum completely informed of the status and outcome of this second effort as we proceed. As you know, all proposals will be evaluated against pre-arranged criteria including technical approach, relevant experience, the representativeness of the pilot plant compared to the full scale plant, the quality of the staff and managerial commitment to the job, and cost.

The second issue you discussed had to do with the proposed remedy for phase two of the site cleanup. Since your letter much has transpired on this subject in terms of discussions with the Forum and special public meetings which you, to your credit, helped arrange. To summarize, EPA and the Forum have agreed a) to contain the half-a-million cubic yards or so of polluted sediment in shoreline CDFs (confined disposal facilities), b) to review advances in sediment treatment technology no less frequently than every five years (to see if it would be practical to treat the sediment within the CDFs), and c) to search for alternatives to using the cove site CDF 1. In fact, the most recent CDF proposal advanced by EPA at the February 28, 1996 Forum did away completely with CDF 1. We remain hopeful that this latest proposal will get the support of all parties involved with the harbor cleanup.

Thank you for your continued interest and your contributions to the important public dialogue on the future of the Acushnet River and New Bedford Harbor area.

Sincerely,

Jim

John P. DeVillars
Regional Administrator

I think the new plan
for CDF's is very sound and am
pleased it has the support of such
a broad cross-section of the
community. I hope we can work
together on this. John



2435060

President, Bill Clinton
White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to thank you personally for taking a stand on keeping the Clean Water Act in place.

The group I represent, Hands Across The River Coalition, is totally opposed to most of the cut backs that the Republican Party is proposing on most of the environmental projects already in place that are working very well.

Our membership involves people from Cape Cod to Rhode Island. As their elected representative, I would like to thank you for helping to reverse the EPA's decision to burn PCB's in the city of New Bedford. Ma.

Since that time, because of our area elected officials, specifically Councillor George Rogers, Congressman, Barney Frank, Senator, John Kerry, and Senator Edward Kennedy, Hands Across The River Coalition have formed a forum of citizens, a facilitator, elected officials, EPA, DEP, NOAA, and other agencies dedicating their time and working for a selection to innovative technologies as an alternative to hazardous waste incineration.

Hands Across The River Coalition is a grassroots non-profit organization with diverse citizens and business men and women dedicated to cleaning up the environment specifically the health conscious clean up of the Super-Fund site here in the city of New Bedford as well as the total restoration of the Acushnet River and New Bedford Harbor. This body of water empties into Buzzards Bay which has a definite environmental impact on the Islands, the same Islands you found to be so pristine when you and your family vacationed here.

Very recently Rutgers University informed us that they will be using us as a model showing how citizens can become more involved in decision making processes for Super-Fund sites throughout the country using innovative technologies.

We have also been contacted by numerous groups all over the country interested in how Government and the EPA can work together with people on these issues.

The innovative technologies and research laboratories in Cincinnati, Ohio set up by the EPA to test alternative technologies to incineration for Super-fund sites has given the Canadian based company Eco-Logic very high marks and the site Manager, Gordon Evans has told me personally that it passed all tests set up by the EPA, specifically, number 1, cost reduction, \$400.00 per ton vs. \$1500.00 per ton for incineration, number 2, on site effectiveness in achieving 99.9999 destruction of not only PCB's, but also heavy metals, number 3, general public's acceptance to this technology being used in their community.

We, the members of Hands Across The River Coalition, the general public as well as our elected officials feel this company is the answer to our high concentrations of PCB's and heavy metals in our river and harbor for their complete elimination.

The EPA is now speaking about the remediation of lesser concentrations of PCB's (which is still as high as 4,000 PPM) for ROD 11 (Record of Decision 11).

Through the Forum, by storing the high concentrations of PCB's on the banks of the river in C.D.F.'s (Confined Disposal Facilities) which are little more than hazardous waste dumps forever.

We find this proposal totally unacceptable because we refuse to place these hazardous waste time bombs in the laps of our guture generation. Hopefully, through the Forum and discussions with John deVillas, who you put in charge of EPA region 1 and we find well suited for the task ahead of him in this region we can come to an agreement suitable for all parties involved.

Although we are totally against his decision to incinerate in the town of Holbrook, we feel that he makes himself readily available to the public for discussions on his projects.

Mr. President, I would like to assure you that you have my support and the group I represent to the fullest extent and to let you know that we support you and your Administration whole-heartedly.

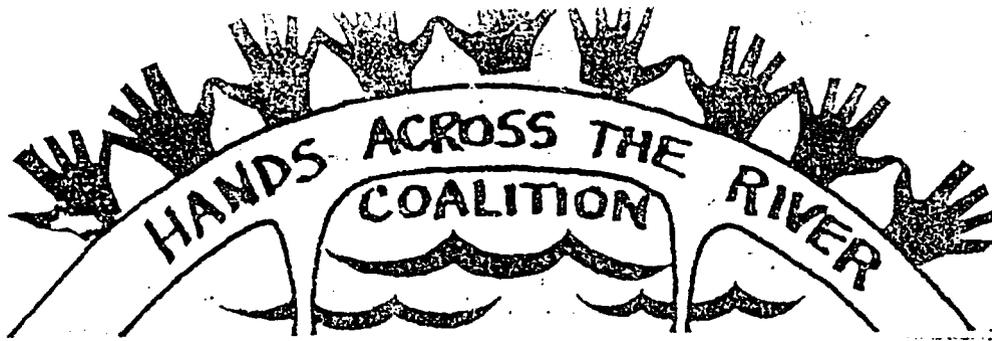
One of my goals in life is to meet with you personally and shake the hand of the one man in this country that has so much environmental insight for our next generation and this beautiful country of ours the United States of America. I am at your disposal, Mr. President.

Sincerely,


James Simmons, President

Hands Across The River Coalition

PS: I know Cong. Barney Frank voted against the Clean Water Act and I have spoken to his office.



Carol Browner
E.P.A., West Tower
401 M Street-S.W.
Washington D.C. 20460

To Honorable Carol Browner,

I am writing to you to tell you that the New Bedford Superfund forum has been very successful in involving the citizens in the decision making process for phase I of the harbour clean-up.

The group I represent is comprised of numerous citizens not only from New Bedford but all of Southeastern Massachusetts. We are a non-profit grassroots organization whose goal is the complete restoration of the Acushnet River and New Bedford Harbour. Naturally, our main concern is the health consciousness of all the citizens who reside around these areas.

As you know, this E.P.A. cleanup involves three phases of the project to be complete. Which brings us to phase II. This phase II area that we are talking about involves a proposal by the E.P.A. that is just not acceptable to anyone and by that, I mean not only the group I represent but also our state and federal elected officials.

The E.P.A.'s proposal for this second phase will store untreated P.C.B.'s between 4,000 and 5,000 p.p.m. forever on the banks of the Acushnet River. This proposal would also fill in a beautiful, natural lagoon for good.

We find this proposal absurd to the point that the citizens of New Bedford and surrounding towns will not be part of placing these hazardous waste dumps in the laps of our children and future generations.

We further find that if the Environmental Protection Agency through the Superfund laws can use the terms untreated and forever, and then tell us that no moneys are available for treatment of this toxic material because of the volume then just maybe Superfund should be revamped or possibly eliminated all together.

We respectfully ask for your attention to this matter as soon as possible so that the people in our area will continue to take heart with all the good things the E.P.A. stands for.

Thank you

Sincerely,

President
Hands Across the
River Coalition

James B. Simmons

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James B. Simmons". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.