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April 13, 1995

Greetings:

This letter and the attached press release are sent simply to inform you of the meeting of the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site Forum scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, at the Greater New Bedford Vocational High School Auditorium at 6:00 p.m.

The agenda for this meeting includes the first public presentation by EPA and the Massachusetts DEP of the latest plan for the second phase of the New Bedford Harbor Cleanup. At this meeting, the Forum will decide how to reform the Forum's future membership to ensure that all interests impacted by the next phase of the cleanup are included in the process. Obviously, not everyone with an interest in the cleanup can serve on the Forum, which is a representative body of limited membership, so decisions about how the expansion will occur are critical. The Forum will also address issues of how to organize and structure its future work such as formation of subcommittees, which may include individuals other than Forum members, to focus on the development of important policies.

We hope you will be able to join us on April 25. If you cannot, remember that all sessions of the Forum are videotaped and played subsequently on local cable television.

If you have any questions about this notice or the meeting, please call Jane Wells at 617-727-2224 or Michael Keating at 401-456-1200.

Sincerely,

J. Michael Keating, Jr.
Facilitator

Jane H. Wells
Facilitator



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For immediate release
April 13, 1995

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**THE NEW BEDFORD COMMUNITY FORUM
INVITES NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN**

Boston - EPA-New England and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will present to the New Bedford Community Forum the second phase of the New Bedford Harbor cleanup on Tuesday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m. at the Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical High School. As the cleanup strategy for the estuary and lower harbor begins to unfold, the New Bedford Harbor Community Forum seeks to broaden its membership and encourage any interested parties to attend and participate.

Previous meetings of the Forum have focused on Hot Spot dredging and treatment. While the Hot Spot issues will continue to be addressed, the Forum will expand its focus to include the cleanup approaches identified for the lower harbor and estuary. As the issues broaden, so should membership of the Forum. Criteria for expanding the membership will be discussed at the April 25 meeting.

"The existing Forum feels this is an ideal time in the harbor cleanup process to broaden membership," said Jane Wells, deputy director for the Massachusetts Office of Dispute Resolution. "The second phase of the cleanup affects many parties and involves many issues which can be brought to the negotiating table through a broad representation of interests. The Forum offers an opportunity for interested groups to be represented, to become informed about the second phase of the cleanup, and to be prepared to assist when the formal comment period begins."

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At the April 25 meeting, EPA and DEP will outline the basic cleanup strategy for the lower harbor and estuary and the rationale used in developing this strategy. The EPA and DEP through the Forum are seeking input from interested parties prior to formally presenting EPA's recommended cleanup plan and soliciting public comment. The formal cleanup proposal for the second phase is expected this summer.

The lower harbor and estuary cleanup plan currently includes:

- dredging PCB contaminated sediment at concentrations exceeding 50 and 10 parts per million respectively, and;
- disposal of the sediments in shoreline confined disposal facilities.

Details of this plan will be given at the April meeting and input from all interested parties is being sought.

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