

Superfund  
SITE: NEW BEDFORD  
BREAK 13.04  
OTHER 47566

**New Bedford Harbor Superfund Forum  
Meeting**

**April 6, 1994  
6:00 p.m.**

**Acushnet Elementary School**

**AGENDA**

- Committee membership
- Schedule for future meetings
- Alternative technology presentations
  - Bio Safe, Inc.
  - Eco Logic

Minutes of Meeting Held April 6, 1994  
on the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site

In attendance at the session were:

Facilitators

Michael Keating  
Jane Wells

HATR

David Hammond  
Richard Wickenden

Concerned Parents

of Fairhaven

Claudia Kirk  
Kathleen Rocha

Mayor's Office

Elizabeth Wright

DEP

Paul Craffey  
Joy Naparstek  
Helen Waldorf

New Bedford City Council

David Gerwatowski  
Fred Kalisz, Jr.  
George Rogers

Downwind Coalition

Neal Balboni  
Carol Sanz

State Elected Officials

Rep. Bill Strauss

EPA

Frank Ciavattieri  
Harley Laing

Town of Acushnet

Roland Pepin

Town of Fairhaven

John Haarland

Approximately five members of the public observed the meeting, which was videotaped for subsequent broadcast on local cable television.

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: NEXT MEETING OF THE NEW BEDFORD SUPERFUND SITE :  
: COMMITTEE WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1994 AT 6:00 P.M. :  
: AT THE ACUSHNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON MIDDLE ROAD. :  
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The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m.

The citizens' groups raised an issue of membership within the forum of representatives of various minority ethnic and racial groups in New Bedford. After some discussion, during which it was pointed out that New Bedford already has at the table three City Council members representing a broad spectrum of the City's ethnicity and territory, it was suggested that the citizens' groups themselves include interested representatives from ethnic and social minorities in their respective delegations to the forum. The Committee asked that any such representatives be fully briefed on the activities of the forum to date to ensure full and meaningful participation.

The Committee then discussed and agreed upon improvements in notifying the media and the public in advance about future scheduled meetings. The funding of the videotaping of the Committee's session was also reviewed. While the particulars of the process were left for subsequent resolution, EPA agreed to fund most of the bills of the videotaping operation, which comes to \$205.00 per session and covers the cost of the taping crew and the production of copies of the master videotape, with the City of New Bedford and the citizens' groups covering the cost of taping some share of future sessions.

Representatives from Rio-Safe Inc. described their innovative technology, which features a fluidized bed process that uses hot steam to decompose PCB's. The process may use either fluidized bed stripping to separate PCB's from the sludge/soil for removal and destruction off-site or thermal catalytic cracking, long common in the petroleum business, to destroy the PCB's on site. Most questions from Committee members focused on distinguishing this process from incineration. Because the thermal cracking process does not involve oxygen, there is no potential for the production of dioxins and furans. The hydrolic acid generated by the process can be removed by scrubbers, leaving a residual natural or methane gas. The process permits a 99.9999% deduction of PCB's. To date, there has been only limited experience in using the process to treat PCB-contaminated materials; it has never been used at a superfund site. The process reportedly costs less than \$200 per ton of heated dredge material. Heavy metals would not be treated in this process, although they could be separated out and collected for other treatment.

Eco Logic features a gas-phase chemical reduction process that introduces hydrogen in a reactor at very high temperatures to break down PCB's into methane, hydrogen chloride and other hydrocarbons. The Eco Logic representative stressed the efficiency and mobility of his process, which does not involve incineration, and can be subjected to continuous monitoring and control. The Eco Logic process is patented widely, has a proven track record in EPA-supervised testing and site work and, in Hamilton Harbor, Ontario, was used to clean up materials where PCB's constituted up to 30 percent of dried harbor sediments.

Future meetings of the forum were scheduled as follows:

April 13 (Wednesday), at Acushnet Elementary School on Middle Road

April 27 (Wednesday), at the Greater New Bedford Vocational High School

May 11 (Wednesday), at the Greater New Bedford Vocational High School

May 18 (Wednesday), at the Greater New Bedford Vocational High School

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m. The next meeting is schedule for Wednesday, April 13, 1994 at Acushnet Elementary School on Middle Road at 6:00 p.m.

Directions to ACUSHNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL: from Boston, take Rt. 24 to Rt. 140 to Brayley Road (Exit 7); at bottom of ramp turn east and drive back under the overpass; the first stop sign is Acushnet Avenue; turn left onto Acushnet Avenue; ahead on left is Sunoco Gas Station and nearly opposite is Peckham Avenue; turn right on Peckham; proceed for about two miles; the school is on your left. From New Bedford, take Rt. 140 north to Exit 7 (Brayley Road) and turn right at bottom of ramp; proceed to stop sign (Acushnet Ave); turn left onto Acushnet Avenue; ahead on left is Sunoco Gas Station and nearly opposite is Peckham Avenue; turn right on Peckham; proceed for about two miles; the school is on your left.

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