

Superfund Records Center 134,41

SITE: NEW BEDFORD

Summary of Meeting Held Dec. 11, 1996
of the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Forum

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In attendance at the session were:

Facilitators

Jane Wells

HARC

Jim Simmons
Steve Cassidy
Elizabeth Ana Taylor

Concerned Parents of Fairhaven

Claudia Kirk

New Bedford City Council

Paul Kozera

DEP

Paul Craffey

New Bedford Mayor's Office

Molly Fontaine

Downwind Coalition

Carol Sanz

State Elected Officials

Rep. Bill Straus

EPA

Cindy Catri
David Dickenson
Frank Ciavattieri

Town of Acushnet

Peter Kocziera

EBASCO

Alan Fowler

Approximately 12 members of the public observed the meeting which was videotaped for subsequent use.

Elizabeth Ana Taylor was welcomed as a new member of the forum as a representative of HARC.

Next the discussion moved to the recently issued Proposed Plan and the Upcoming Record of Decision (ROD) for phase 2 of the harbor cleanup. The purpose of this ROD is to finalize the Agency's cleanup decision for the upper and lower harbor areas of the Site. EPA has reported that the public comment period for the Proposed Plan has been extended to January 23, 1997 at the request of some interested parties. Once the comment period closes, the Agency expects to issue its ROD in June 1997. Remedial design work can begin once the ROD is issued.

In response to a Forum member's question, EPA estimated that remedial design for the first CDF is expected to last one to one and one-half years, and that there are potential real estate and access issues which could delay this schedule. EPA also estimated that construction of the first CDF could take another one to one and one-half

years, and clarified that it intends to build the CDF which presents the least obstacle first. Thus it could be three years or so after the issuance of the ROD before dredging would begin.

Another Forum member commented that he would like to be able to participate in the development of the engineering design for the CDFs. The Agency agreed that design documents would be available for review and comment. Another member questioned why the Regional Administrator was not signing the ROD given the importance of this Site. EPA explained that approval for all RODs have been delegated to the Director of the Office of Site Restoration and Remediation as part of a recent regional reorganization. Another member questioned locating CDFs in an area subject to tidal action and storms. EPA responded that all CDFs will be designed and constructed to withstand wave and tidal action, and that two independent panels (the Sea Change panel and the National EPA remedy review board) have endorsed the CDF-based approach for the phase two remedy.

Alan Fowler of EBASCO reported that all three vendors have completed their field work on the Treatability Studies. He introduced representatives of EcoLogic to answer questions about their process and experience. He indicated that it will be early spring before the analysis of all vendors reports will be available and ready for presentation to the Forum.

There was discussion about dredging activities and the clarification of the roles of DEP/CZM, the advisory council to Seaport Planning Committee and EPA in various locations of the harbor.

The Forum scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, February 12, 1997, 6:00pm at New Bedford Regional Vocational High School.

You Are Reminded

The New Bedford Harbor Community Forum has scheduled a meeting to discuss the status of the Hot Spot treatability studies and the proposed cleanup plan for Upper and Lower New Bedford Harbor. The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Wednesday, February 12, 1997

 *6:00 p.m.*

New Bedford Voc. Tech High School

Please feel free to call us if you have any questions:

Jane Wells, Dep. Dir. Office of Dispute Resolution

 (617) 727-2224