

EPA Extends the Comment Period for the Proposed Use of a Confined Aquatic Disposal Cell to Expedite Cleanup at the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site

The US EPA is extending the public comment period to September 10 on its proposal to modify the 1998 Record of Decision (ROD) for the upper and lower harbor to include use of a confined aquatic disposal (CAD) cell in the lower harbor for disposal of approximately 300,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediment requiring cleanup through EPA's Superfund program.

This proposed change is outlined in a draft Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) document. This document remains in draft form until public comments and a response by EPA is officially recorded. This ESD will be available as part of the New Bedford Harbor Site's Administrative Record file at the reference desk of the New Bedford Public Library, 613 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, MA (508-991-6280), at the EPA Region 1 Records Center, 5 Post Office Square, Boston, MA (617-918-1440) and on the harbor cleanup website at www.epa.gov/ne/nbh.

EPA's evaluation of CAD cells, including both field monitoring and computer modeling, has concluded that CAD cell technology is a protective and safe approach for disposal of sediments in both the short and long term. Three CAD cells for disposal of navigational sediments have been used successfully to date in the same area as the proposed Superfund CAD cell. Recently finalized cost estimates indicate that both the time and cost to complete the upper and lower harbor cleanup can be reduced significantly through the use of CAD cell technology.

Comments on the draft ESD will be accepted through September 10, 2010 and can be submitted either in writing or via email.

You may also mail written comments to:

David Dickerson
USEPA, OSRR07-4
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Send email comments to:
NBH.Comments@epamail.epa.gov

EPA held an informational public meeting on Thursday 6/24/10 at the main New Bedford Public Library to discuss the draft ESD. Presentations and further information can be found at the harbor cleanup website at www.epa.gov/ne/nbh.

