



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park
33 William Street
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

Superfund Records Center

SITE: New Bedford
BREAK: 16.1
OTHER: 498993

IN REPLY REFER TO :

A00(NPS/NEBE)

March 22, 2011

Kimberly White
Project Manager, New Bedford Harbor Superfund Project
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
OSRR07-4
Boston, MA 02109-3912
(sent overnight)

Re: Follow-up to March 15 meeting

Ms. White:

Thank you for the informative stakeholder meeting you hosted last week. As we indicated then, we are looking forward to working with you on this project, and strongly believe we can accomplish the objectives of both environmental protection and historical preservation in a complementary fashion. Thank you as well for the copy of the 2001 survey you furnished us at that time.

In order to ensure that our expectations are clear and we have the same understanding of the discussion at that meeting, these are the items we requested and you agreed to provide:

1. A written response to our Consulting Party request.
2. The scope and specifications for the upcoming pre-dredge survey work, in time to review it before work begins (which, given the work is slated to begin the first week of April, means **we would need this in the coming week**). In our last letter we had requested the chance to review the scope before work was solicited, but have not received anything; in the future please consider this standard procedure for archeology-related work. Please confirm to us in writing that this will be incorporated into your procedure.
3. The raw and processed survey data from the 2001 survey (and any subsequent ancillary studies for which data exists). To clarify, this should include:



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- a. Electronic copies of the raw and processed magnetometer data for the dredge area.

Raw magnetometer data should be ASCII text, comma delimited X,Y,Z files; X and Y should be coordinate plane values with Z measured magnetic intensity. Datum should be specified. Processed magnetometer data should be georectified, contoured isogammas (nanoteslas), in either ArcView shapefiles or autocad .dxf file format that can be imported into the park's GIS database.

- b. Electronic copies of raw and processed single or multibeam bathymetric data for the dredge area.

Raw bathymetric data should be ASCII text, comma delimited X,Y,Z files, Z (elevation) values should be tied to a known datum (e.g. MLLW, NAVD 88) and specified, X, and Y datum values should also be specified. Processed bathymetric data should be georectified depth contours (either ArcView shape files or autocad .dxf files) for inclusion in the park GIS database. Datum should be specified.

- c. Electronic copies of the side scan sonar imagery for the dredge area. Data should be in industry standard .xtf format. Other formats (e.g. .mst) are acceptable, but not preferred. Datum should be specified.

- d. Processed sub-bottom profiler data for the dredge areas. .tiff, .jpeg or other image formats are acceptable, as are hard copies of the imagery. Ping coordinate locations, two-way travel time (or other depth data) and datum must be specified.

4. A copy of the current unanticipated finds procedure.

5. The results of the PCB tests on the ship timbers.

6. A project schedule for the summer.

7. A full set of the project area maps displayed at the meeting (not all are available on the website, such as the maps that outline the different areas scheduled for dredging this summer).

8. Copies of the survey report on the work being performed in April as soon as it is available, accompanied by the raw and processed data according to the standards outlined above.

In regards to the last item, you indicated a review window of one week. It is customary in such cases to schedule longer agency reviews; given the current desire for expediency, we will complete our review within a thirty-day window, which is the minimum stipulated by American Council on Historic Preservation regulations. In the future, we ask that you build into the schedule a ninety-day period for review when possible. One week will not allow for the level of analysis we wish to perform; nor do we suspect it will allow for the full participation of the other partners who may wish to review the report, such as the City of New Bedford or our local Native

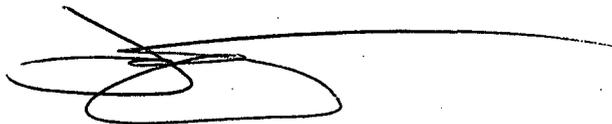
American tribes. It is important that this participation be fostered rather than hindered, as we all have a common interest in a successful outcome for the project. Furthermore, consultation is more than just reviewing the plans, it is about input into them –thus time must also be allotted in the schedule to analyze and incorporate our comments.

We also left the last meeting not entirely clear on which agencies/stakeholders are Consulting Parties and/or what formal agreements with regards to Section 106 compliance are already in place. Would you please clarify this for us?

Lastly, we request that you consider modeling the potential extent of Native American sites of significance in the entire project area. As we stated at the meeting, the areas in deeper water that are adjacent to the sites that you have already identified are highly likely to be older areas of prehistoric use, given that thousands of years ago these areas were land, not water. We understand your point that the contaminated soils sit on top of these older sites and thus the dredging will not penetrate into them; however the exposure from removing these soils may have adverse impacts on the sites in terms of erosion. For this reason we recommend an impact analysis and protection or mitigation strategy for these sites.

We ask that you provide us with a written response to these issues. Given that work is slated to begin at the beginning of April, for the time sensitive items we ask that we receive this no later than March 29. If you have any questions, please do hesitate to call me at (508) 996-4095 x6100 or email at jen_nersesian@nps.gov. Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,



Jennifer T. Nersesian
Superintendent

cc:

Marc Paiva, U.S Army Corps of Engineers
Victor T. Mastone, Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources
Brona Simon, Massachusetts Historical Commission
Mayor Scott Lang, City of New Bedford
James Russell, New Bedford Whaling Museum
Bettina Washington, Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribe
George Green Jr., Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
Elaine Stanley, EPA
Lisa Bergson, WHALE