



The COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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January 20, 2011

Superfund Records Center
SITE: New Bedford
BREAK: 1C.1
OTHER: 498997

Kimberly White
Regional Project Manager
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

RE: Unanticipated Shipwreck Discovery in Acushnet River, New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site
BUAR Special Use Permit 09-003

Dear Ms. White:

The staff of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources has completed its review of the technical report entitled *Marine Archaeological Documentation and Assessment, New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site, Unanticipated Shipwreck Discovery, Acushnet River, Acushnet, Massachusetts*, dated September 2010. The Board notes it did not receive this report until December 31, 2010.

The Board is satisfied with the overall research design and methodology for the supplemental marine archaeological survey, documentation, and assessment of this unanticipated historic shipwreck discovery. It concurs with the report's interpretation and recommendations that no further investigation is warranted.

However, in the report's closing recommendation statement, it is noted that "additional care should be taken during future phases of the NBHSS remediation project to avoid similar impacts...the NBHSS has a high archaeological sensitivity for containing additional, heretofore undetected shipwrecks within its APE". Therefore, the proponent must consider the possibility that heretofore-unknown submerged cultural resources may be encountered during the course of the project. The Board expects that the project's sponsor will take steps to limit adverse affects and immediately notify the Board and the Massachusetts Historical Commission, as well as other appropriate agencies. The Board has an established procedure to deal with such events under its *Policy Guidance for the Discovery of Unanticipated Archaeological Resources* (updated 9/28/06). The Board suggests that the US Environmental Protection Agency and US Army Corps of Engineers develop, in joint collaboration with the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Board, an unanticipated finds procedure in accordance with that document for the NBHSS remediation project.

Finally, the Board takes this opportunity to extend its compliments to the technical services provider for preparing a thorough and well-written marine archaeological technical report. Given the quality of the technical report, the Board believes there is significant public benefit to be gained by sharing this study and its findings. Rather than suggest publication of this technical report or an adaptation, the Board suggests the project develop simpler poster presentation. Poster board type format would readily lend itself to ready information sharing and public engagement in the harbor communities. The Board



would utilize such material in its public and professional programming efforts. It would be less costly and more useful than copies of the technical report or even a brochure.

The Board appreciates the opportunity to comment on this report. Should you have any questions regarding this review, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address above or by telephone at (617) 626-1141.

Sincerely,



Victor T. Mastone
Director

/vtm

Cc: B. Simon, MHC
M. Paiva, USACOE (via email attachment)
R. Boeri, MCZM (via email attachment)
B. Washington, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) (via email attachment)
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J. Russell, New Bedford Whaling Museum
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