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Project No. S725.14

Ms. Jackie Prince
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region I
John F. Kennedy Federal Building
Room 2303
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

Subject: Summary of Findings
Investigation of Undisclosed Sources and Sites
New Bedford Site
Work Assignment No. 28-1L43.2

Dear Ms. Prince:

As we recently discussed, NUS Corporation (NUS) has completed its interviews and information search in relation to the identification and assessment of potential sources and sites of PCBs and other toxic chemicals in the New Bedford area. Attached please find a summary table of our findings and recommendations, along with a brief description of the major findings related to each site that support the recommended action. These summaries are being submitted to support a timely decision by EPA on follow-up actions. A more complete documentation of our findings is being prepared and will be forwarded within two weeks.

We will expect to hear from you shortly on whether the Remedial Planning Office of NUS will be involved in the follow-up assessments. If either Steve Joyce or you have any questions prior to receiving the detailed write-ups, please call Mr. Craig Martin or Ms. Robin Smith at (412) 788-1080.

Very truly yours,

Joseph G. Yeasted
for J.G.Y.

Joseph G. Yeasted
Project Manager

Approved for submission by:

Donald Senovich

Donald Senovich
Manager, Remedial Planning

JGY:vlp

Attachment

cc: Mr. Steve Joyce, EPA Region I

**S725.14
NEW BEDFORD**

SUMMARY OF SITES

TASK 14: INVESTIGATION OF UNDISCLOSED SOURCES AND SITES

NEW BEDFORD SITE

SITE NO. 1: ACUSHNET MUNICIPAL LANDFILL

No information has been obtained to document whether industrial chemical waste or PCBs are present at this landfill. However, some sources indicated that such a condition cannot be ruled out. It is our understanding that as of October 1984, a preliminary assessment of this site is being performed under the RCRA program. For this reason, no further action under CERCLA is recommended.

SITE NO. 2: DARTMOUTH MUNICIPAL LANDFILL

All information obtained indicates that this is a non-industrial landfill. Small amounts of PCBs have reportedly been detected in leachate during routine monitoring events. A concern was raised that the adjacent swamps have not been adequately sampled to determine the presence of contaminants. This site is recommended as a second level priority for a Preliminary Assessment (PA) due to the reported presence of PCBs.

SITE NO. 3: FAIRHAVEN MUNICIPAL LANDFILL

PCB-contaminated sediments are known to have been disposed at the Fairhaven Municipal Landfill during construction of a private marina. This disposal activity was approved and is documented by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering, but is considered to contain less than 50 ppm concentrations. The small quantity of material in question and the subsequent covering with other refuse encapping materials lead to the conclusion that this waste does not present a problem. No further action is recommended.

SITE NO. 4: CECIL SMITH'S PROPERTIES

Seven people commented on questionable waste disposal practices on various portions of these properties, and felt strongly that significant contamination problems currently exist. All individuals except one felt that these sites could have significant amounts of toxic waste present. This site is considered to be a high priority for a PA.

SITE NO. 5: SALTER'S POINT DISPOSAL AREA

One individual reported that residents have observed the disposal of PCBs in this area. No information to confirm this report was found, however. No other individual had heard of this disposal area, and it is possible that this is just a local name for another of the sites under investigation. No further study can proceed since the site has not been located.

SITE NO. 6: GARCIA BROTHERS PROPERTY

All individuals familiar with this site expressed the opinion that only construction and demolition debris were present. No information was obtained that indicates the presence of industrial chemical waste or PCBs. No further study of this site is recommended.

SITE NO. 7: UNNAMED DISPOSAL AREA

This site, reported to be near the corner of Church Street and Chaffee Street in New Bedford, was mentioned as a previous disposal area. However, no information was obtained to indicate that industrial chemical waste or PCBs are present, and it recommended that no further action be taken.

SITE NO. 8: GRAVEL PIT BEHIND AIRPORT

Conflicting information was obtained regarding historic disposal practices at this site. Some sources felt that no industrial waste had been disposed here, while others felt that the general practice of uncontrolled dumping at the site could have involved hazardous waste. This site is recommended as a second priority site for a PA.

SITE NO. 9: NORTH FORT PHOENIX BEACH

The initial concern regarding this site was the use of contaminated sediments as fill. Some knowledgeable individuals confirmed that a small amount of fill was used near the parking lot, but would not represent a significant concern. No contamination was found in water column samples from the beach, and less than 2 ppm PCBs were found in Quahog beds in the nearby sediments. No further action is recommended at this site.

SITE NO. 10: PLAYGROUND NEAR SOUTH TERMINAL

Two sources indicate that this area could have been filled with contaminated sediments. No other information was obtained on this site. Due to the potential presence of PCBs along the harbor shore line, this site is recommended as second priority for a PA.

SITE NO. 11: HOMER'S WHARF

This site was also considered to be a possible area of contaminated fill. However, no information supporting this contention was found, and no further action is recommended.

SITE NO. 12: FRANCIS PLAYGROUND

Several individuals considered this to be a potentially contaminated site. Some individuals expressed a concern that various wastes were disposed at the site, while another individual referred to the disposal of slightly contaminated sediments from Clark's Cove. However, soil samples collected at the site did not indicate contamination. Due to the potential health effects relative to this site, it is recommended that it be designated as a second priority site for a PA.

SITE NO. 13: NEW BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL PROPERTY

Many individuals indicated that the New Bedford High School was constructed in an area where dumping historically took place. No information was available on the types of materials disposed, however. In addition, there have been reports that sediments from the harbor were used as fill material during construction of the high school. The consistency of the concerns lead to a recommendation that a PA be conducted at this site on a second priority basis.

SITE NO. 14: CUSHMAN PARK

This site has historically been the center of significant concern regarding possible presence of hazardous chemicals. However, both state and EPA tests of the water, soils, and marsh sediments from the park did not indicate the presence of contaminants. Since the PA for this site did not indicate the presence of hazardous waste, no further action is recommended.

SITE NO. 15: MARSH ISLAND

Reports on whether this site contains PCB contaminated sediments or other wastes were generally inconsistent. One source indicated that hydraulic dredge material from construction of the I-195 bridge was placed at this site. This site is not considered a significant concern, but the uncertainty leads to a recommendation that it be designated as a second priority site for EPA.

SITE NO. 16: EMPTY LOT NEAR GOODYEAR PROPERTY

This area was reported by some individuals to be a previous disposal area possibly containing industrial waste. Some excavation was reportedly performed by Warren Brothers of Fairhaven within the last 10 years, but no further information was available. A possible presence of industrial waste lead to a conclusion that a PA be conducted for this site on a second priority basis.

SITE NO. 17: EMPTY LOT ALONG HATHAWAY BOULEVARD

This lot, located across from the New Bedford High School, was referenced by one individual as the "main Hathaway Road dump." Dumping of unknown wastes was likely at this site. Houses and a church may now be built on portions of this site. It is recommended that this site be designated as a second priority site for a PA, since no hazardous wastes are known to be present.

SITE NO. 18: LOT NEAR REVERE COPPER AND BRASS

The city of New Bedford has reportedly filled an area south of the Revere Plant with material from an unknown source. One resident felt that this could be an industrial waste disposal site. The uncertainty surrounding this site and its location near the harbor indicates that a PA should be conducted, but on a second priority basis.

SITE NO. 19: COMMONWEALTH ELECTRIC PLANT PROPERTY

This site was designated as a concern due to the possible presence of PCBs in transformers at the site. However, no information was obtained to indicate that such a problem existed. No further action is recommended at this site.

SITE NO. 20: I-195 BRIDGE ABUTMENTS/FILL

Some individuals reported that PCB-contaminated sediments dredged during construction of the bridge were used as fill in the bridge abutments or were spread on the abutments for drying purposes. Since this site could represent a source of PCBs to the harbor, but no documentation of the problem exists, it is recommended that a PA be conducted at the second level of priority.

SITE NO. 21: POPE'S ISLAND

This area has been reportedly filled with material from unknown sources. Drums of chemical waste were reportedly stored on the island in the past, and levels of PCBs higher than in the surrounding areas have been found in the harbor along the west side of the island. This information, and the fact that the island is located within New Bedford Harbor, leads to a recommendation that Pope's Island be designated as a high priority site for a PA.

SITE NO. 22: MERRILL'S WHARF

A concern was expressed that this site may contain contaminated sediments as fill material. However, no information supporting this concern was obtained and no further action is recommended.

SITE NO. 23: WEST ISLAND DREDGE DISPOSAL AREA

An area within the outer harbor just off of West Island is known to be a dredge disposal area. Whether PCB-contaminated sediments are disposed there, and to what extent, remain uncertain. One report is that the Army Corps of Engineers disposed of dredge materials at this site during construction of the hurricane barrier. Since this site is being sampled as part of Battelle's sampling program, and will likely be addressed in the overall feasibility study, no additional action is recommended.

SITE NO. 24: NORTH DARTMOUTH MALL

There was an early report that the property upon which the mall was built was previously used for waste disposal. However, no individual interviewed during the course of this work was aware of any such dumping. Some individuals expressed a strong opinion that no such dumping had taken place. Consequently, no further action is recommended.

SITE NO. 25: LIVESEY PARK

Only one individual expressed the opinion that this site may have been a fill area. There is no knowledge that contamination is present, and no further action is recommended.

SITE NO. 26: MADEIRAS BUS COMPANY PROPERTY

This property, located in Fairhaven just north of the Coggeshall Street Bridge, was recently extended into the estuary to provide for a parking lot. This filling operation was not permitted, and the source of the fill material is unknown. The location of this fill location near heavily contaminated sediment zones causes an increased concern and it should be investigated further. However, it is recommended that any further activity be done in response to the unpermitted fill operation (possibly by the DEQE). A PA is not the recommended force of action.

SITE NO. 27: FISH ISLAND

It was reported by one source that PCB concentrations have been observed to exceed 50 ppm on the Island. It is uncertain whether these concentrations represent soil samples or sediment samples from the adjacent harbor areas. The uncertainty that remains regarding the possible presence of PCB waste exceeding the hazardous waste criterion leads to a conclusion that a PA should be conducted on a high priority basis.

SITE NO. 28: CONRAIL PROPERTY

The EPA is in the process of conducting a PA for the Conrail property, and thus no additional action in response to this investigation is necessary.

SITE NO. 29: LOT NEAR ACUSHNET MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Empty drums are located in this lot. In addition, local residents report that such drums were historically used as rubbish burners due to the presence of flammable residue. These reports indicate that hazardous chemicals may be present on this site, and a second priority PA is recommended.

SITE NO. 30: PROPERTY ACROSS FROM CORNELL-DUBLIER

One individual reported that this property (exact location unknown) was used as a disposal site by Cornell-Dublier. Excavation from this site reportedly took place at the time of construction of the existing apartment buildings. The possible presence of contaminants within a highly populated area (i.e., the apartments) increase the concern regarding this lot, and a second priority PA is recommended.

SUMMARY TABLE

TASK 14: INVESTIGATION OF UNDISCLOSED SOURCES AND SITES

NEW BEDFORD SITE

Site No.	Site Name	Site Site Location	Likelihood of Toxic Contaminants*	Quality of Information**	Recommended Action
1	Acushnet Municipal Landfill	Acushnet	2	3	No Action
2	Dartmouth Municipal Landfill	Dartmouth	3	3	P.A. (Second Priority)
3	Fairhaven Municipal Landfill	Fairhaven	2	5	No Action
4	Cecil Smith Properties	Dartmouth	5	5	P.A. (High Priority)
5	Salter's Point Disposal Area	Dartmouth	-	1	No Action
6	Garcia Brothers Property	Fairhaven	1	4	No Action
7	Unnamed Disposal Area	New Bedford	2	1	No Action
8	Gravel Pit Behind Airport	New Bedford	3	3	P.A. (Second Priority)
9	North Fort Phoenix Beach	Fairhaven	2	4	No Action
10	Playground Near South Terminal	New Bedford	2	2	P.A. (Second Priority)
11	Homer's Wharf	New Bedford	-	1	No Action
12	Francis Playground	New Bedford	3	3	P.A. (Second Priority)
13	New Bedford High School Property	New Bedford	3	3	P.A. (Second Priority)
14	Cushman Park	Fairhaven	2	5	No Action
15	Marsh Island	Fairhaven	3	3	P.A. (Second Priority)
16	Empty Lot Near Goodyear Property	New Bedford	3	2	P.A. (Second Priority)
17	Empty Lot Along Hathaway Boulevard	New Bedford	3	3	P.A. (Second Priority)
18	Lot Near Revere Copper and Brass	New Bedford	3	2	P.A. (Second Priority)
19	Commonwealth Electric Plant Property	New Bedford	-	1	No Action
20	I-195 Bridge Abutments/Fill	New Bedford	3	2	P.A. (Second Priority)
21	Pope's Island	New Bedford Harbor	4	4	P.A. (High Priority)
22	Merrill's Wharf	New Bedford	-	1	No Action
23	West Island Dredge Disposal Area	New Bedford Harbor	4	4	No Action
24	North Dartmouth Mall	Dartmouth	1	4	No Action
25	Livesey Park	Fairhaven	-	1	No Action
26	Madeiras Bus Company Property	Fairhaven	-	3	No Action
27	Fish Island	New Bedford Harbor	4	3	P.A. (High Priority)
28	Conrail Property	New Bedford	5	5	No Action
29	Lot Near Acushnet Municipal Building (?)	Acushnet	3	2	P.A. (Second Priority)
30	Property Across from Cornell-Dubilier	New Bedford	3	2	P.A. (Second Priority)

* 5 = High Likelihood; 1 = Low Likelihood

** 5 = Reliable Information; 1 = Little or No Information