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From: William Walsh-Rogalski
To: File
Re: Conversation with Paul Sneeringer
Date: July 10, 2012

This document memorializes a conversation I had with Paul Sneeringer with regard to the comparative floodplain effects of activities at the Broadway site and the State Enhanced Remedy site.

In several of the USACOE floodplain-related documents there is a reference to the State Enhanced Remedy reducing flood storage capacity behind the New Bedford hurricane barrier by 27.33 acre-feet. I asked Paul if one could compare that with some computed loss of flood storage capacity from a port facility being built at the Broadway site, which is part of the larger Quonset Point site discussed in the State's documents. The Broadway site would include the filling of some salt marshes.

Paul said that the two sites were very different with respect to an analysis of lost storage capacity. With respect to the New Bedford State Enhanced Remedy site, the analysis involves measuring what the effect of placing fill in a hydrologically enclosed area would have on flood storage capacity within that closed area. In other words, if the State Enhanced Remedy were built, once the hurricane barrier is closed, the floodplain area upriver of it would have a measurable reduction in its capacity to accept more water before the flooding of adjacent areas occurred. On the other hand, because the Broadway site is not enclosed by any structure but rather is open to the ocean, the filling of any small area there would not by itself have any measurable effect on lost storage capacity.

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