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R-33-8-5-14

September 18, 1985

NUS Project Number 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 Interviews
Investigation of Undisclosed Sources and Sites
New Bedford Site
Work Assignment Number 28-1L43.2

Dear Ms. Prince:

In a letter dated August 12, 1985, NUS Corporation (NUS) submitted a summary of findings in relation to the identification and assessment of potential sources and sites of PCBs and other toxic chemicals in the New Bedford area. This summary, which included recommendations for further action on some sites, was submitted without full documentation in order to satisfy your schedule for responsive follow-up activities. The purpose of this letter is to transmit a more complete presentation of the information obtained from a series of interviews that provide the basis for the summary and recommendations previously submitted.

In most cases, the interviews were conducted by identifying each of the sites of interest to the individual being interviewed, and then soliciting any knowledge that the individual had of the site. With reference to the attached document, the format selected for the presentation of findings is to simply present a carefully interpreted summary of the responses on a source-by-source basis. While this format results in a somewhat disjointed presentation, no integration of the interview results was attempted, since the credibility and accuracy of the responses could not be established and numerous inconsistencies were found.

In order to protect the interviewees in the event of misinterpretations, the sources of the statements are not identified in this submittal. The identity of each source has been recorded in the project files, however, along with the original interview notes. The interviewees consisted of local officials, municipal employees, local consultants, and various other knowledgeable individuals identified in the course of other interviews. A solicitation for additional knowledgeable individuals was made in one of the project-related mailings issued to the communities by EPA, but no one responded other than those previously identified.

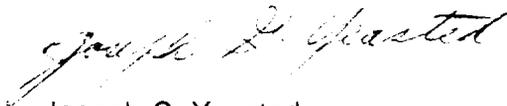
Ms. Jackie Prince
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In addition to the interviews, NUS also searched New Bedford city files and newspaper files. Very little conclusive information was obtained through the file search; all findings are noted as appropriate in the attachment. Two sites reported in the previously submitted summary (Site No. 29: Lot Near Acushnet Water Department and Site No. 30: Property Across from Cornell-Dubilier) were identified to NUS by Mr. Marty Blake, a Private Investigator working under contract to the EPA. These sites are not included in the attached interview summary. Note that Site No. 29 had been erroneously reported as a "Lot Near Acushnet Municipal Building" in the earlier submittal.

The New Bedford Work Plan (Task 14) called for follow-up field investigations at all sites that remained as potentially important sources of contamination following completion of the interviews and file searches. However, a recent decision by EPA to authorize Preliminary Assessments (and possibly Site Investigations) for these sites under the Superfund process eliminated the need for follow-up investigative work under the New Bedford Work Assignment. As a result, and with your concurrence, this submittal represents the close-out of work under Task 14 of the New Bedford Site authorization.

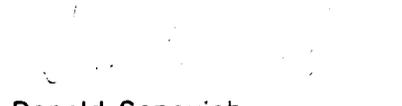
We hope that the information compiled from our investigation of undisclosed sources and sites has satisfied your needs to effectively prioritize the more extensive follow-up studies. Please call if you have any questions or if you need clarifying information.

Very truly yours,



Joseph G. Yeasted
Project Manager

Approved:



Donald Senovich
Manager, Remedial Planning

JGY:drp

Attachment

cc: Mr. Steve Joyce, EPA Region I

R-33-8-5-14

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEWS

**INVESTIGATION OF
UNDISCLOSED SOURCES AND SITES**

NEW BEDFORD SITE

NUS PROJECT NUMBER S725.14

SITE NO. 1: ACUSHNET MUNICIPAL LANDFILL

Location: The Acushnet Municipal Landfill is located off of North Main Street, approximately 2 miles northeast of Acushnet Center.

Description: The Acushnet Landfill is a solid waste disposal area which serves the town of Acushnet.

Information Obtained:

- Source 10: It is not certain what types of wastes have been accepted at the site. The landfill is probably located too far from the harbor area to have received dredge spoils.
- Source 4: Acushnet properties owns and operates the landfill. Presently 250 tons/day are disposed at the landfill. This limit appears to exceed the tonnage that can be produced by the town of Acushnet alone. This has resulted in a legal problem of who is allowed to use the landfill and what specific wastes can be accepted. The landfill is situated close to the wetlands and leachate from the landfill eventually reaches the river. Currently there is no information concerning the toxicity of the wastes or leachate. However, a preliminary assessment of this site is being performed under the RCRA program.
- Source 1: The Acushnet landfill has received industrial waste; however, a hazardous/toxic waste problem does not exist.

SITE NO. 2: DARTMOUTH MUNICIPAL LANDFILL

Location: The Dartmouth Municipal Landfill is located off of Russells Mills Road, less than 1 mile north of the Russells Mills section of Dartmouth.

Description: This disposal area is owned by the town and operated by the Department of Public Works, Highway Division.

Information Obtained:

- Source 2: The Dartmouth Landfill is a non-industrial disposal area.
- Source 10: The landfill is located too far from the harbor to have received harbor sediments.
- Source 4: Small amounts of PCBs have been detected in the leachate during routine monitoring events. Iron, manganese, and zinc have also been detected. The adjacent swamps have not been adequately sampled to determine the presence of contaminants.

SITE NO. 3: FAIRHAVEN MUNICIPAL LANDFILL

Location: Fairhaven's solid waste disposal area is located on the north side of Bridge Street, between Huttleston Avenue (Route 6) and Alden Road.

Description: This landfill is operated by the Highway Division of the Fairhaven Department of Public Works.

Information Obtained:

- **Source 10:** Some dredge spoils were placed in the landfill during construction of a private marina about 5 or 6 years ago. These spoils probably contain low levels of PCBs. The dredge material was originally placed in the Safe Boating Co. parking area. Eventually, with the approval of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE), this material was taken to the landfill and encapsulated with earth. It is also possible that other industrial wastes have been disposed in the landfill.
- **Source 4:** Between 1860 and 1890 the area where the landfill is presently located was used as a source of fill for Cushman Park and the Fairhaven High School. The landfill contains municipal wastes. Also a small amount of PCB dredge spoils with concentrations less than 50 ppm were disposed with DEQE approval. The PCB wastes have been covered with approximately 6,000 cubic yards of rubbish and daily cover. A leachate collection system was designed for the landfill but was never installed. However, to date no leachate breakouts have been discovered.
- **Source 11:** The landfill received debris and fill from the Coast Guard property on Middle Street after the 1954 hurricane.

SITE NO. 4: CECIL SMITH'S PROPERTIES

Location: Cecil Smith's property is located in Dartmouth on the south side of Old Fall River Road, approximately midway between Faunce Corner and Hixville.

Description: The Cecil Smith property is approximately 300 acres in size. Portions of this area have been privately operated as disposal sites servicing the greater New Bedford area.

Information Obtained:

- Source 4: Cecil Smith owns 300 acres in North Dartmouth (Old Fall River Road). Sixty acres of this area have been designated as a landfill. Sixteen of the sixty acres were prepared with a liner and a leachate collection zone. However, this area was never used because of zoning laws. Another part of this 60-acre area was used as a demolition landfill. Approximately 10 years ago the landfill was covered with 1 foot of dredge material. The area has not been tested for PCBs. Mr. Smith also owns property north of Route 6. The H&M Drum Co. had several hundred barrels in a warehouse on the property. Some barrels were dumped directly on the ground. There is a quarry and also a pond near this area. DEQE has cleared the drums from the site. A Dartmouth well, about 700-800 feet from the drum area (50-60 feet deep), was closed due to contamination. DEQE wanted an observation well 300 feet away sampled, but the well screen was clogged with naturally occurring iron. FS&T were the consulting engineers.
- Article from the Standard Times, December 1979. The article reported that 2,000 barrels of hazardous wastes were found buried in Freetown and Dartmouth. Six hundred of these drums were burned in the Braintree Incinerators. The remaining 1,400 were taken to out-of-state dumps. (Appears to be the H&M drum site on Cecil Smith's property.)

- Source 1: The old quarry near Mr. Smith's Landfill is a problem. It is located adjacent to Route 6, Dartmouth. The quarry has been used for industrial waste disposal at least through 1980 (probably later). In the late 1970s, a diver went into the quarry and found the bottom covered with drums. The quarry was found to be the source of contaminants that closed some of Dartmouth's wells. The landfill portion of the property (versus the quarry) doesn't present a significant problem. PCB samples taken at the landfill were lower in concentration than the PCB levels in the blood of some area residents.
- Sources 3, 10, and 8: Anything and everything might have been disposed at this location.
- Source 8: The demolition debris from the "terminals" in New Bedford was disposed at Smith's Landfill.
- Source 7: A sand quarry located on the site was used for disposing of wastes once the sand was removed. This disposal area is believed to be connected to the Re-Solve operation. (Articles were seen in the Standard Times linking Cecil Smith to the Re-Solve site.)

SITE NO. 5: SALTER'S POINT DISPOSAL AREA

Location: Not located.

Description: No description of this site was available. Only one 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.

Information Obtained:

- Source 8: There have been rumors from a few of the older residents in the area that PCBs have been disposed here. However, there are no records to confirm this.

SITE NO. 6: GARCIA BROTHERS PROPERTY

Location: The Garcia Brothers disposal area is located in Fairhaven on the west side of Alden Road, just east of the town's municipal landfill.

Description: This site is an open lot that was operated by Garcia Brothers, Excavating Contractors for the disposal of construction debris.

Information Obtained:

- Source 11: The site contained fill from the New Bedford Storage Warehouse consisting of concrete, iron rods, and other demolition debris.
- Source 12: The site was utilized by the Garcia Brothers for the disposal of inert building rubble, broken pavements, etc., from various construction projects completed by their company. It is almost certain that no industrial wastes are disposed on the Garcia Brothers property.

SITE NO. 7: UNNAMED DISPOSAL AREA

Location: This site is in New Bedford on the north corner of the intersection of Church and Chaffee Streets.

Description: This area was used for the disposal of inert wastes such as gravel and roadway demolition materials. This material was being used to fill a swampy drainage course to develop light industrial land.

Information Obtained:

- Source 3: The area has been excavated and is presently posted.
- Source 7: Street sweepings, debris, earth, and rock have probably been disposed in this swampy area.
- Source 4: This area was the location of a piggery and is presently a disposal area.

SITE NO. 8: GRAVEL PIT BEHIND AIRPORT

Location: The gravel pits are located off of New Plainville Road in New Bedford northeast of the New Bedford Airport.

Description: This site is an abandoned gravel pit. The area exhibits considerable disturbance (e.g., mounding and pits), and a small ponded area is present.

Information Obtained:

- Source 4: The area may contain fill and excavation from the construction of the airport runway. However, hazardous materials were not disposed of here.
- Source 3: "Everything" was put into this area.
- Source 12: Rubbish, tires, and other refuse have been dumped here.
- Source 2: This was not an industrial dump.
- Source 3: Material was removed from here in 1971 or 1972 and taken to the New Bedford Landfill. This site has been opened and closed to dumping many times.

SITE NO. 9: NORTH FORT PHOENIX BEACH

Location: Fort Phoenix Beach is located in Fairhaven (south of the hurricane barrier) off of Beacon Street.

Description: Fort Phoenix is currently a state-owned beach. Initial concerns were raised about this site regarding the use of contaminated dredge spoils as fill near the parking lot area.

Information Obtained:

- Source 4: The beach is owned by the State and is regularly nourished with new sand (not dredged sediments). Test results indicated no contamination in water column samples from the beach, and less than 2 ppm PCBs in the Quahog beds from nearby sediments.
- Sources 5 and 11: Dredge spoils were placed as fill near the parking area.
- Source 10: Dredge spoils were not placed on this beach; however, when the hurricane barrier was dredged, the spoils were placed on Palmer Island.

SITE NO. 10: PLAYGROUND NEAR SOUTH TERMINAL

Location: The playground is located in New Bedford along the harbor just north of the hurricane barrier. Gifford and Front Streets intersect near the southwest corner of the playground.

Description: The playground is a filled area near the harbor shoreline.

Information Obtained:

- Source 4: This area of the city was hydraulically filled, but it is not known where the fill came from. The area is now under urban renewal and redevelopment.
- Source 10: Dredge spoils have not been placed in the playground area. (When the hurricane dike was built, material was dredged by suction and incorporated into the core of the dike. The dredged material was treated to form concrete-like material. The dike was constructed of a heavy soil base, a sand core, then rip-rap.) The playground was defined as an area where the Standard Times wanted to build a printing plant. However, the area was not stable enough to handle heavy presses, so a location in Fairhaven was selected.

SITE NO. 11: HOMER'S WHARF

Location: Homer's Wharf is located in New Bedford approximately one-quarter mile south of Route 6 between the harbor shoreline and Front Street.

Description: The wharf was considered to be a possible area of contaminated fill.

Information Obtained:

- Source 4: The wharf area does not lend itself to much fill, and any fill present is behind bulkheads.
- Source 10: The area is filled, but the source of the fill is unknown.

SITE NO. 12: FRANCIS PLAYGROUND

Location: Francis Playground is located in New Bedford adjacent to and on the landward side of the Clark's Cove seawall.

Description: The playground was formed during construction of the hurricane barrier as a temporary flood storage area during periods of floodgate closure.

Information Obtained:

- Source 7: This area received fill when the seawall was built at Clark's Cove. It is possible the fill is contaminated.
- Source 4: This area was filled, but the source of the fill is unknown. However, soil samples collected at the site did not indicate contamination.
- Source 6: Industry used this area for waste disposal.

SITE NO. 13: NEW BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL PROPERTY

Location: The high school is located between Parker and Durfee Streets in New Bedford.

Description: Previous to the construction of the New Bedford High School, this area was a marshy area that was used as a dump site.

Information Obtained:

- Source 4: There are no records available on what was dumped at this site.
- Source 10: The high school was built 10-12 years ago; it is not known what was previously dumped here.
- Source 7: The site was originally a swampy area known as the Parker Street dump and was used for ash disposal. However, when construction of the high school started, about 8 to 10 feet of material was excavated and moved to another old ash site across Hathaway Boulevard.
- Source 12: Harbor sediments were used as fill during construction of the high school because of a soil stability problem.
- Source 3: Some materials excavated during construction of the high school were taken to the New Bedford Municipal Landfill.

SITE NO. 14: CUSHMAN PARK

Location: Located in Fairhaven (near the harbor), Cushman Park is bordered by Main Street, Bridge Street, Green Street, and Spring Street.

Description: Cushman Park is a community park and a multi-use recreational area. Much of the park area is dedicated to ball fields.

Information Obtained:

- **Source 11:** Sampling of the park for PCBs in 1982 revealed negative results.
- **Source 5:** There seems to be a public feeling that this area is linked to leukemia in children. No statistical correlation between PCBs and leukemia was found. However, the State would not check PCB levels in leukemia patients. Parents and hospitals also refused to participate in any study. Metals such as arsenic and lead are in the park.
- **Source 10:** The area was a swamp in the early 1900s. Soil from the present Fairhaven Landfill Site was used to fill in the swamp (prior to the landfill operation).
- **Source 12:** Cushman Park used material from the Fairhaven Landfill as fill. However, construction of this park was started before the use of PCBs. Cushman Park has two ditches draining to New Bedford Harbor. Backwaters from the harbor usually inundate the ground around the ditches during high tide periods. Therefore, Cushman Park is suspected of having contamination due to polluted harbor water.

SITE NO. 15: MARSH ISLAND

Location: Marsh Island is located in Fairhaven just south of I-195 and adjacent to the Riverside Cemetery.

Description: Marsh Island is actually a peninsula formed by a granite outcrop. With the exception of transmission towers, the Island remains undeveloped.

Information Obtained:

- Source 10: Some dredge spoils may have been placed on Marsh Island over the years, but it is doubtful that it is highly contaminated.
- Source 4: Hydraulic dredge material from the construction of the I-195 bridge was deposited on the island. The material is likely to have high levels of PCB contamination, and core sampling of the area is recommended.
- Source 7: Access to Marsh Island is difficult, which might have limited disposal activity on the island.
- Source 11: Wastes or sediments may have been deposited here, but probably prior to the use of PCBs in New Bedford.
- Source 2: The area was used as an industrial waste disposal site.

SITE NO. 16: EMPTY LOT NEAR GOODYEAR PROPERTY

Location: This empty lot is located near the Goodyear Plant in New Bedford, south of Katherine Street and between Orchard and Bonney Streets.

Description: This area was reported by some individuals to be a previous disposal area.

- **Source 7:** This area was an ash dump, which was excavated by Warren Brothers within the last 10 years when a parking lot was built.
- **Source 4:** Dredge materials from Clarks Cove have possibly been deposited in this lot. Historically, very low levels of PCB contamination (<1 ppm) have been detected in the Clarks Cove sediments.
- **Source 2:** The lot has been used as an industrial waste disposal site.
- **Source 3:** The area has historically been a disposal area for many and varied waste types.

SITE NO. 17: EMPTY LOT ALONG HATHAWAY BOULEVARD

Location: This site is located across from New Bedford High School along Hathaway Boulevard.

Description: The area was likely a marshy area at one time. Residential development has since occurred.

Information Obtained:

- Source 2: This was part of the "main Hathaway Road dump."
- Source 3: Houses and a church are now built on portions of this site.

SITE NO. 18: LOT NEAR REVERE COPPER AND BRASS

Location: This site is located along the harbor in New Bedford in the vicinity of Revere Copper and Brass and Aerovox Corporation.

Description: The city of New Bedford has reportedly filled an area south of the Revere Plant with material from an unknown source. It's exact location and current land use was not determined.

Information Obtained:

- Source 2: This area was an industrial waste disposal site.
- Source 4: Revere has discharged copper and zinc for many years but does not use PCBs. The city has filled an area south of the Revere Plant, but the source of the fill is unknown.
- Source 10: Effluent from Revere was discharged to the river.

SITE NO. 19: COMMONWEALTH ELECTRIC PLANT PROPERTY

Location: The Commonwealth Electric Plant is located along the New Bedford waterfront, off Pine Street.

Description: This site is an operating power plant that was designated as a concern due to the possible presence of PCBs in transformers stored on the site.

Information Obtained: There was no information obtained on this site to indicate that a contamination problem exists.

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

Location: I-195 Bridge as it crosses New Bedford Harbor between New Bedford and Fairhaven.

Description: Some individuals reported that PCB-contaminated sediments dredged during construction of the bridge were used as fill in the construction of the bridge abutments or were spread on the abutments for drying purposes.

Information Obtained:

- Source 11: The fill in the causeway allegedly came from New Bedford.
- Source 10: The dredge spoils were dumped on the river banks to dry, and then spread and seeded on the ramp areas leading to Belleville Avenue.
- Source 4: Some of the dredge spoils may have gone into the bulkheads, but the majority of the spoils were pumped to Marsh Island. There is also a spoil area near West Island.

SITE NO. 21: POPE'S ISLAND

Location: Pope's Island is located in the New Bedford Harbor, at the Route 6 Bridge crossing.

Description: The island is a principal landform within the harbor environment. Considerable commercial and light industrial development has occurred on the island.

Information Obtained:

- Source 10: Miscellaneous "garbage" was used as fill.
- Source 4: There are barrels of hazardous wastes on the island, and levels of PCBs in the harbor along the west side of the island are higher than in surrounding areas.

SITE NO. 22: MERRILL'S WHARF

Location: Merrill's Wharf is located off MacArthur Drive, along the New Bedford waterfront.

Description: A concern was expressed that this site may contain contaminated sediments as fill material.

Information Obtained:

- No one interviewed was aware of the use of contaminated sediments as fill.

SITE NO. 23: WEST ISLAND DREDGE DISPOSAL AREA

Location: This area is located in Buzzards Bay just south of West Island.

Description: The area is known to be a dredge disposal area and is designated as such on navigational and other maps.

Information Obtained:

- Source 4: The spoil area (south of West Island) should be investigated.
- Source 7: When the hurricane dike was built, the Army Corps of Engineers hauled dredged materials on barges to an area behind West Island for disposal.

SITE NO. 24: NORTH DARTMOUTH MALL

Location: The mall is located in North Dartmouth on the north side of Route 6, approximately 1-3/4 miles east of the intersection of Route 140 and Route 6.

Description: There was an early report that the property on which the mall was built was previously used for waste disposal.

Information Obtained:

- Source 2: The site was a beautiful farm before mall construction.
- Source 3: The mall area was never used as a disposal site.
- Source 10: This area used to be a golf course. It is unlikely that it had to be filled, and thus there is probably no contamination at this site.
- Source 4: The area has been drained, not filled, and there is no information about dumping in this area.

SITE NO. 25: LIVESEY PARK

Location: Livesey Park, located in Fairhaven, is situated at the intersection of Coggeshall Street and Main Street behind the Oxford School.

Description: Livesey Park is actively used as a recreational urban park. An initial concern was raised regarding the possibility of the use of contaminated fill in this area.

Information Obtained:

- Source 10: This area was not filled and is probably not contaminated.

SITE NO. 26: MEDEIROS BUS COMPANY PROPERTY

Location: The Medeiros Bus Company is located along the Acushnet River Estuary at 72 Sycamore Street in Fairhaven.

Description: This property was recently extended into the estuary to provide for a parking lot. The source of the fill material used is uncertain.

Information Obtained:

- Source 5: The Medeiros Bus Company has recently filled areas on their property. The fill material was obtained from hotspots (contaminated sediments) in the harbor.

SITE NO. 27: FISH ISLAND

Location: Fish Island is located in the New Bedford Harbor at the Route 6 crossing just west of Pope's Island.

Description: There is an uncertainty regarding the possible presence of PCB waste on this island.

Information Obtained:

- Source 4: PCB concentrations have exceeded 50 ppm in the island material. (Note: This could be a reference to harbor sediments near Fish Island.)
- Source 10: Fish Island is not known to be contaminated.

SOURCE NO. 28: CONRAIL PROPERTY

Location: The Conrail property is located in New Bedford, paralleling Herman Melville Boulevard and Route 18 near the harbor.

Description: The Conrail property is a large railyard that was the site of PCB transfer from railcars to trucks, drums, etc. The EPA is in the process of conducting a Preliminary Assessment on the Conrail property.

Information Obtained:

- (No information was sought on this site since it was being actively studied by EPA.)