



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION I

J. F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203

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EPA REOPENS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON PCB CLEANUP OPTIONS;
ANNOUNCES ITS PREFERRED OPTIONS

BOSTON -- The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has reopened until January 15, 1985 a public comment period on proposals to clean up the areas of worst PCB contamination in New Bedford Harbor.

EPA Regional Administrator Michael R. Deland said, "At this point we believe the most environmentally sound and cost effective way to clean up the PCB "hot spots" is either to dredge contaminated sediments and dispose of them in a partially lined (bottom unlined) containment site in the northern part of the estuary, at an estimated cost of \$28 million, or to dredge contaminated sediments and dispose of them in a nearby upland containment site (yet to be selected), at an estimated cost of \$44 million."

"We prefer the partially lined containment option over a fully lined containment site because the nature of PCBs is such that they would become attached to the contaminated sediments and would not migrate, so a fully lined containment site is not necessary," Deland said.

The Agency has reopened the comment period so the public can focus their comments on EPA's preferred options. An initial comment period on five alternatives identified by a Feasibility Study of all the cleanup options ran from August 23 until November 15, 1984.

At the same time, a Remedial Investigation to determine the nature and extent of contamination at Sullivan's Ledge landfill in New Bedford is ongoing. Sixteen new groundwater monitoring wells were installed over the last few weeks. The new wells and two existing wells will be sampled within the next month.

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