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**THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT
ON THE PROPOSED PLAN FOR CLEANUP OF THE
NEW BEDFORD HARBOR SUPERFUND SITE
(ESTUARY, LOWER HARBOR, UPPER BAY OPERABLE UNIT)
NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently completed a Feasibility Study (FS) for clean up of the New Bedford Superfund Site. The FS focused on the Acushnet River Estuary, Lower New Bedford Harbor and Upper Buzzard's Bay portions of the site. Based on the results of the FS, EPA has made a preliminary recommendation of a preferred cleanup alternative for these areas of the Harbor. A description of the preferred alternative and the other remedial plans considered during the FS are described in the recently published Proposed Plan. EPA invites public comment on the preferred alternative and other alternatives described in the FS and the Proposed Plan. Comments received from the public during the comment period will be considered by EPA in selecting the final cleanup plan.

EPA will host a Public Informational Meeting on Thursday, January 30, 1992 at 7:30 p.m. at the Days Inn on Hathaway Road, New Bedford, Massachusetts to discuss the proposed remediation plan. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend to hear the presentation and to ask questions. A Portuguese translator will be present at the meeting. From January 31, 1992 through May 31, 1992, EPA will conduct a 120-day public comment period to provide an opportunity for the public to participate in the selection of the cleanup plan. During the comment period, the public is invited to review the Proposed Plan and the Feasibility Study available at the information repositories listed below, and to offer written or oral comments to EPA. EPA will hold an informal public hearing on Thursday, March 5, 1992 at 7:30 p.m. at the Days Inn to accept oral statements on the remedial alternatives which were considered. The meeting will be transcribed, and a copy of the transcript will be made available at the information repositories.

Preferred Alternative

EPA's preferred alternative (#8 below) involves dredging the sediments which are contaminated with PCB levels of 50 ppm or greater in the estuary, lower harbor and bay portions of the site. These sediments would be disposed in shoreline disposal facilities. EPA is not proposing treatment of the sediment prior to its disposal. Construction is estimated to be completed six years after start-up, at a projected cost of approximately \$33,274,000, not including land acquisition access costs. The cleanup would be funded with federal Superfund cleanup money.

EPA evaluated the following alternatives in the Feasibility Study:

1. Minimal No Action
2. Capping, 10 ppm PCB action level
3. Removal and On-site Disposal, 10 ppm PCB action level
- 3d. Removal, De-watering and On-site Disposal, 10 ppm PCB action level
4. Removal, Solidification, and On-site Disposal, 10 ppm PCB action level
5. Removal, Solvent Extraction and On-site Disposal, 10 ppm PCB action level
6. Removal, Incineration and On-site Disposal, 10 ppm PCB action level
7. Removal and Disposal 500 ppm PCB action level; Capping 50-500 ppm PCBs
8. Removal and Disposal, 50 ppm PCB action level
9. Removal and Disposal 50-500 ppm PCBs; Removal, Treatment and Disposal of sediment contaminant above 500 ppm

The Proposed Plan, site investigation studies and the FS report will be available for review as a part of the Administrative Record. The Administrative Record includes documents used to aid in EPA's selection of the preferred alternative for the estuary, lower harbor and bay portions of the New Bedford Harbor Superfund site. The Administrative Record for the site includes: fact sheets, site investigation studies, the FS, correspondence pertaining to the site, and other relevant documents. EPA encourages the public to comment on documents as they are placed in the Administrative Record. The Administrative Record is available at the following locations:

EPA Records Center
90 Canal Street, 1st Floor
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 573-5729

New Bedford Free Library
613 Pleasant Street
New Bedford, MA 02114
(617) 991-6275

Hours:
Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
and 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Contact: Evo Cunha

or

Hours:
Mon., Wed. 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
Tues., Thurs.-Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Contact: Paula Wallace

If you would like to comment in writing on EPA's Proposed Plan or the Feasibility Study, please mail your written comments (postmarked no later than May 31, 1992) to:

Gayle Garman
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I
Waste Management Division (HSN-CAN3)
JFK Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203
(617) 223-5522

or

James Sebastian
Community Relations Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I
Public Affairs Office (RPA-74)
JFK Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203
(617) 565-3423