

52388

Handwritten signature/initials

U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

DATE: September 7, 1984

U.S. v. AVX Original
Litigation Doc

SUBJ: New Bedford Portuguese public meeting

FROM: Debra Prybyla
Gerry Sotolongo *AS*

TO: File

A special public meeting was held on September 6 in an effort to explain the PCB "hot spot" cleanup options to a community potentially greatly impacted by the options, the New Bedford area Portuguese. A special meeting was held because the Portuguese have not attended the other, more traditional public meetings EPA has held in the New Bedford area.

The meeting was held at a branch of the New Bedford Public Library system, located in a large Portuguese neighborhood. The building serves as a community center and houses a Portuguese library. The meeting was translated into Portuguese by a local translator.

In attendance were the editor of The Portuguese Times, the president of Portuguese Americans United, Inc. (a civic/political action club), the director of the Portuguese library, a local fisherman, a handful of other Portuguese-Americans, and a reporter from the Providence Journal. Questions raised included: How long will it take before the options are implemented? How long before the fish in the "hot spot" area are safe to eat? What are the responsible parties doing to help? How big is the problem? Objections to the upland disposal site were expressed. It was suggested that, instead, the material be disposed at an already existing hazardous waste landfill.

Despite the fact that the meeting was announced on the Portuguese radio, TV, and newspaper, and flyers were sent to about 50 Portuguese community contacts, turn out was low. In the future, we may want to speak at a regular meeting of one of the existing community groups, ensuring a larger audience.