

New Bedford Marine Commerce Terminal

Interagency Blasting Coordination
Meeting

Cashman Weeks NB Field Office

August 1, 2013



Agenda

Welcome

- Bill White, *Massachusetts Clean Energy Center*

Underwater Blasting Presentation

- Chet Myers, *Apex Companies, LLC*
- Steve Tobin, *Cashman-Weeks NB*

Question & Answer

- All

Coordination Meeting

- Representatives from local, state, and federal agencies regarding underwater blasting coordination:
 - MassCEC
 - Cashman-Weeks NB
 - City of New Bedford
 - NB Fire Dept.
 - Fairhaven Fire Dept.
 - U.S. ACE
 - U.S. Coast Guard
 - Fairhaven Police Dept.
 - Fairhaven Harbor Master
 - U.S. EPA
 - MassDEP
 - NB Police Dept.
 - NB HDC
 - NMFS-approved Fish Observer

Major Project Components

- 1,000 ft of New Bulkhead
- Deep Dredge Draft to 32 ft
- Approx. 28 acres of Marine Terminal
- New Navigational Channel
- Environmental & Habitat Restoration Areas



Need for Underwater Blasting

- EPA is expected to provide final approval for controlled underwater blasting for limited areas in the navigational channel being constructed for the Terminal.
- Three areas that require blasting are within the Deep Draft Area near the proposed bulkhead
- Removal of shallow bedrock enables large vessels with deep drafts to safely navigate to Terminal.

Potential Underwater Blast Observations

- Vibrations from underwater blasting
 - Mild vibrations may be felt a couple times a day for a duration of a couple of seconds
 - Magnitude similar to a bus passing a house
- Water Disturbance
 - Bubble release and localized splash will occur directly over blast site during each event.

Environmental Precautions

- Contaminated sediment removed before blasting will occur
- Clean overburden (after contaminated layer is removed) will be left in place to absorb blast energy
- Overburden absorbs blast waves, and minimizes the impulse waves
- Strict controls on weight of explosives to limit adjacent impacts, approved by EPA, NMFS, and ACE
- Silt curtains and a fish deterrent system in place to keep marine life clear of blast area
- Aquatic monitoring to keep fish out of blast area
- Water and Air Quality monitoring during blasting

Local Businesses & Residents

- Information to be presented at two public meetings (Aug. 6 & Sept 3) prior to blasting; provide a forum for questions and comments
- Contractor to leaflet and mail three letters to residents and businesses within 1,500 feet of the blasting area
- Contractor to offer free pre-blasting surveys to residences and businesses within 1,500 feet of the blasting area

Additional Monitoring Activities

- 1,500 foot perimeter will be established 15 minutes before the blast to keep the area clear of vessels
- Blast signals to be displayed outside of the blasting area
- Pre- and post-blast photographs and videos of nearby structures within 1,500 feet of blast area
- Monitoring of Hurricane Barrier in accordance with USACE requirements will be completed
- Vibrations monitors will be positioned between blast area and structures that could experience potential vibrations

1,500-ft Radius Blasting Perimeter



Timing of Blasting

- Blasting expected to occur between mid-September and October 2013
- Blasting shall occur on weekdays between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm
- Blasting expected to take place 1-2 times a day and last a few seconds

Day of Blasting Coordination

- CWNB will notify the **Coast Guard, NB Police and Fire Departments, Fairhaven Police and Fire Departments, and New Bedford Harbor Development Commission** 24 hours and 2 hours before a blasting event
- A 24 hour, 2 hour, 30 minute, and countdown will be provided over the port's operations radio channel before each blasting event
- A NMFS-approved **Fisheries Observer** will be on site to assess the numbers of fish or marine mammals within the blast zone prior to the blast, assist in removal of marine species prior to blast, and monitor any impacts after blasting events

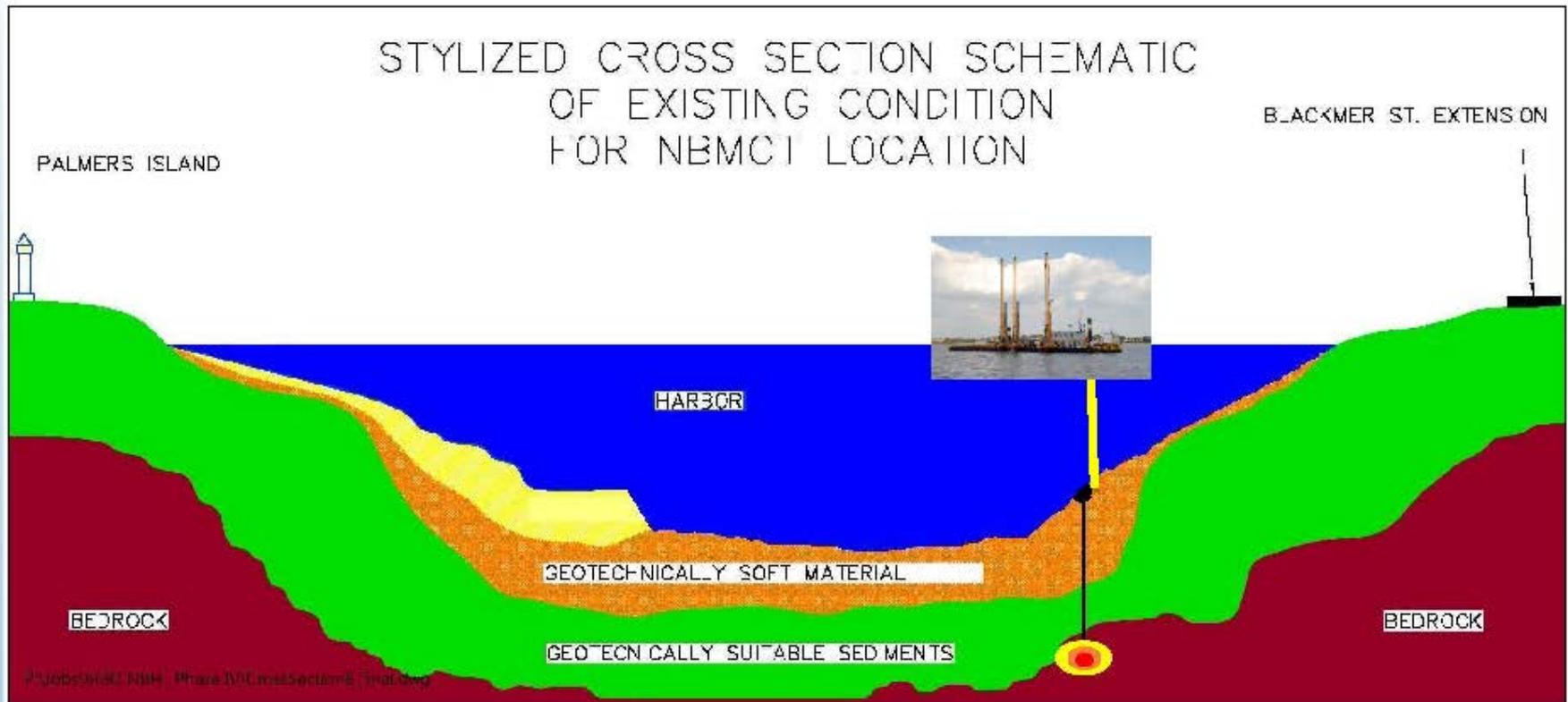
Public Communication

- Notification of Local Landowners and Residents
- Notification Regulatory Agencies (ATF, USCG, USACE, EPA, MassDEP), Local Administration (New Bedford and Fairhaven), and Emergency Services (Fire, Police)
- Public Notification in the Newspaper
- Two Public Meetings to Discuss the Activities

Mobilization of Drill Rig



Drill Rig Drills to Below Blasting Depth



Blasting Process

- The drill rig is positioned above each designated drill hole location.
- The drills are advanced into the bedrock to desired depth.
- Blast agent is placed into each drilled hole.
- Drill holes are covered by crushed rock called “stemming” for the purpose of confining the charge and limiting rock movement, noise, and underwater pressure.
- A countdown is started 15 minutes prior to each shot and a series of public safety and marine species protocols are initiated.
- After all procedures are followed, the shot is detonated.
- After the all-clear is given after the shot, normal use of the harbor in blast area will resume.

Upcoming Schedule of Public Meetings:

First Tuesday of the Month

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Third Floor, New Bedford Public Library

- 🕒 Tuesday, August 6
- 🕒 Tuesday, September 3

Please visit our website www.masscec.com/newbedfordterminal for updated information about public meeting schedules

Questions?



New Bedford Marine Commerce Terminal