

March 4, 1986

Will Bonneau
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 MROED-E
 6014 U.S. Post Office & Court House
 Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Dear Mr. Bonneau:

EPA Region I formally approves the composite sampling plan submitted to the Agency on February 19, 1986. EPA concurs with the plan to selectively mix sediments from grid nos. I-19, I-23, G-17 and J-8 to develop the composite sample. In addition, the sampling results clearly identify a "hot spot" near the Aerovox facility at grid no. I-11. The Corps of Engineers (ACE) recommends separate treatment and disposal of this material and EPA supports this recommendation.

The Agency would like ACE to immediately initiate the additional sampling and analyses necessary to physically and chemically characterize the "hot spot" area. However, EPA has strong reservations about conducting a pilot test in this area. It is the Agency's understanding that the suite of tests being funded under the Engineering Study were designed to answer EPA's questions on the impacts of dredging and disposal of the upper Acushnet River sediments. Any cost increases and/or potential schedule delays created by a pilot test would be unacceptable. In particular, EPA has numerous concerns as to the cost and feasibility of mobilizing and demobilizing three to four dredges. Once dredging activity begins, it would be enormously difficult to shut down operations in New Bedford and begin construction a year later. Furthermore, the lack of a disposal site presents another obstacle.

The Agency would like to work closely with ACE to select the most feasible and cost-effective method of treating the "hot spot." At the outset, ACE and EPA clearly concur on the necessity of treating these hotter sediments separately. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Prince of my staff at (617)223-1951.

Sincerely,

Ira Leighton
 Chief, Massachusetts Superfund Division

SYMBOL	J. Prince/darcie/3-1951/3-3-86/disc #5						
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