



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION I

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

55610 135

NOV 1 1984

18 AUG 1984

**NEW BEDFORD SUPERFUND SITE  
EPA PROGRESS AND PLANS  
AUGUST 1984**

U.S. v. AVX Original  
Litigation Document

A draft report on what to do about high levels (or "hot spots") of PCBs in the Acushnet River Estuary north of Coggeshall Street Bridge has been completed. This fact sheet summarizes this report and outlines the activities EPA will conduct to involve the community and to aid the public in understanding the report.

**Results of the Fast-Track Feasibility Study**

High levels of PCBs have been detected in the Acushnet River Estuary north of the Coggeshall Street Bridge. These areas of PCBs are referred to as "hot spots". The fast-track Feasibility Study was done to determine the best action to take on these "hot spots". The goals for any action are to:

- Decrease the risk to public health, welfare and the environment
- Decrease the risk of contamination spreading away from the hot spots

The fast-track Feasibility Study screened and evaluated all the techniques and methods for dealing with the problem. Four techniques and methods were determined to be feasible for the Acushnet River Estuary. These four alternatives were studied in detail along with a fifth no-action alternative. Each of these alternatives was evaluated to determine which would be the most environmentally sound and cost-effective method to deal with the problem.

Some potential effects of the first four alternatives include the following:

- PCBs from the hot spots would no longer spread to the New Bedford Harbor or Buzzard's Bay.
- PCBs and other contaminants would not be released into the environment (air and water).
- Humans would not come in contact with highly-contaminated materials.
- The negative effects on the fishing industry would be reduced because PCBs and other contaminants would not be entering the food chain.
- The image of the New Bedford area could be enhanced by eliminating PCB contamination.

The five alternatives are:

• **Hydraulic Control and Sediment Capping**

This alternative calls for constructing a channel of earth and rockfill within the estuary north of the Coggeshall Street Bridge. Water from the Acushnet River would flow through the channel from upstream of the "hot spots" to below the Coggeshall Street Bridge. Contaminated harbor sediments in the remaining open-water areas would be capped (covered) with clean material (dirt). The goal of this alternative is to isolate contaminated sediments from the environment without removing them.

Building a channel and capping the sediments would disrupt the ecology of the estuary and would limit recreational activities. Capping would also convert shallow water areas to dry land.

• **Dredging with Disposal in an Unlined In-harbor Containment Site**

With this alternative, contaminated sediments would be dredged from the estuary area and disposed in a containment site within the harbor area. The containment site would be constructed in the northern part of the estuary along the eastern shore. An embankment would be built of earthen materials (dirt, gravel, rocks) to form the walls of the containment site. This would create an area where contaminated sediments from the estuary could be placed. The walls of the containment site would be lined with impermeable material and thus prevent water from seeping through. The containment site would be capped (covered) to prevent the spread of contamination. Salt marshes along the eastern shoreline would be permanently lost, and those within the western cove would be temporarily disrupted. Dredging would have short-term effects on the ecology of the estuary.

• **Dredging with Disposal in a Lined In-harbor Containment Site**

This alternative is identical to the previous alternative, except that a liner would be placed under the containment site as well as on the walls. This liner, made of impermeable material, would prevent water from seeping through it.

- **Dredging with Disposal in an Upland Containment Site**

With this alternative, contaminated sediments would be dredged from the estuary and disposed in a containment site outside the harbor area. The location of this containment site is yet to be determined. The dredged sediments would be temporarily stored at the cove on the western shore near Coffin Avenue. These sediments would then be trucked to the disposal site. This action would increase noise and traffic levels more than the other alternatives. Potential effects on the environment would be introduced to an area not currently affected by PCB hot spots.

- **No Action**

This alternative was evaluated to provide a measure of comparison for the other alternatives. With this alternative, no action would be taken to deal with the problem. Exposure of humans and the environment to PCBs would continue.

Each of these alternatives is discussed in detail in the fast-track Feasibility Study.

A summary of the fast-track Feasibility Study will be mailed on August 9, 1984, to the following locations:

New Bedford Free Public Library  
613 Pleasant Street  
New Bedford, MA

Millicent Library  
Center Street  
Fairhaven, MA

Fairhaven Board of Health  
Town Hall  
Center Street  
Fairhaven, MA

The complete fast-track Feasibility Study will be available for public review at the above locations starting on August 23, 1984.

A series of activities has been planned to involve the community and to obtain public comments on the results of the study.

- **Informational Public Meeting**  
August 22, 1984 - 7:00 to 9:30 PM  
Whaler Motor Inn  
500 Hathaway Road  
New Bedford MA

At this meeting, EPA will present the results of the study. Initial questions the public may have will be answered. The written public comment period will begin the next day.

- **Written Public Comment Period:** August 23 through September 28, 1984.

Send comments on the fast-track Feasibility Study to:

Gerry Sotolongo  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Waste Management Division (HWM-1907)  
John F. Kennedy Federal Building  
Boston, MA 02203

- **Open House/EPA Availability**  
Date, time and place to be announced.  
Representatives from EPA and EPA's technical consultant will be available to the public to answer questions about the study.
- **Public Hearing**  
September 20, 1984 - 7:00 to 9:30 PM  
Fairhaven Junior High School  
30 School Street  
Fairhaven, MA

This meeting will be held to receive comments from the community on the fast-track Feasibility Study. Oral comments will be recorded. Written comments may also be submitted at this time.

- **End of Written Comment Period**  
September 28, 1984

All written comments on the fast-track Feasibility Study must be received by September 28, 1984. EPA will carefully consider public comments in deciding how to deal with the PCB "hot spots".

For more information on any of the above activities, contact Debra Prybyla, EPA Office of Public Affairs, at (617) 223-4906.