

DEC 10 1984

Gerald St. Hilaire  
 Executive Office of Communities  
 and Development  
 100 Cambridge Street  
 Room 1401  
 Boston, MA 02202

Dear Mr. St. Hilaire:

This letter notifies you of a proposed Superfund project to be funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This project is subject to the State Intergovernmental Review Process. The 60-day comment period on this proposed action will begin five days after the date this letter is sent. Please address any comments on the proposed action to the EPA project officer listed below. The project outline is as follows:

1. Site Name: New Bedford Harbor
2. Location of Site: New Bedford, Massachusetts
3. Site Rank: This site is ranked in Group 2 of the National Priorities List (40 CFR part 300, Appendix B) established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-570).
4. Nature of the Problem: As a result of industrial use of PCBs from the 1930s to the late 1970s, PCB contamination has been documented in the sediments, biota and water column of the Acushnet River Estuary/New Bedford Harbor/ Buzzards Bay areas. Heavy metals are also present in the New Bedford environment. The highest sediment PCB concentrations have been found in the upper area of the Acushnet River Estuary, the so-called "hot spot". The harbor has been a fishing closure area because of the PCB contamination.
5. Description of Proposed Activities: This project will consist of a remedial design and remedial action for the upper Achusnet River Estuary, or the "hot spot" area. It will also consist of a larger term remedial investigation and Feasibility Study

For New Bedford Harbor and Buzzards Bay. The project will implement the selected alternatives which the state has

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also approved and which meets the requirements of sections 300.68 and 300.70 of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Contingency Plan (40 CFR part 300).

6. Community Relations Activities: Community relations activities have been an ongoing part of these projects to inform and receive input from public officials and the affected community. These activities include holding public meetings, organizing press conferences and workshops, distributing press releases, speaking to concerned citizen groups, preparing fact sheets, and use of the community relations repository.

7. Estimated Cost: Contingent upon chosen alternative in the ROD, to be 10 percent funded by the State of Massachusetts, 90 percent funded by US EPA for actions taken inside the hurricane barrier. Remedial actions in Buzzards Bay (outside the hurricane barrier) will be subject to 50 percent by the US EPA. The remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study will be 100 percent funded by EPA.

8. State Project Officer:

Yee Cho  
 DEQE  
 One Winter Street  
 5th Floor  
 Boston, MA 02108  
 (617) 292-5819

9. EPA Project Officer:

Gerard Sotolongo  
 MA/CT/VT Site Response Section  
 Waste Management Division  
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
 Room 1903, JFK Federal Building  
 Boston, MA 02203

As I have indicated above, you will have 60 days after receipt of this letter or until January 15, 1985 to submit additional comments. We have received your comments to date and EPA will consider them in our selection process.

Gerry Sotolongo (617) 223-1951 of my staff is available to assist you in any way during your review.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Deland  
 Regional Administrator

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CONCURRENCES

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