

57457

R.F.D. 2 Box 336  
Freeport, Maine 04032

September 2, 1982

Mr. Gerald Sotolongo, Scientist  
Waste Response & Compliance Branch  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region I  
J.F. Kennedy Federal Building  
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

Re: PCB pollution crisis in  
New Bedford Harbor

Dear Mr. Sotolongo:

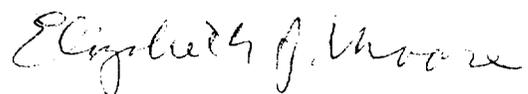
I am grateful for your letter of last June responding to the concern I had expressed to Ms. Gorsuch regarding the problem of PCB's in New Bedford Harbor. In your letter you said "the EPA and the State of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering were developing plans to provide for a complete assessment of extent of the problem in the harbor". You went on to say that it would be "some time before specific remedies are evaluated and selected", but that the "New Bedford site was added to the list of sites to be addressed under Superfund. This action makes available sufficient funds to adequately study the problem and will provide EPA and the State with an appropriate solution to the New Bedford problem". I was somewhat surprised by what you communicated as I had thought the problem had been assessed and that it had been determined that

SEP 7, 1982

large amounts of PCB's had been entering the harbor for many years, that they had sunk to the bottom, completely destroying the aquatic life of the harbor, along with the livelihood of the people who used to lobster there. I also understood that the PCB's were being carried, with each outgoing tide, into Nantucket Sound and eventually, in greater and greater amounts, to the Georges Bank where, as you know, much of the sealife of our coast originates. Thus the whole chain of life of a vast part of the ocean is, as I understand it, in great and permanent jeopardy. I also understand the children who live in the vicinity of the harbor are experiencing the horrifying fact of an increase in leukemia. I was given to understand that a complete dredging of the harbor and a disposal of the matter brought to the surface - although perhaps there is no such "safe" disposal area - was considered the necessary remedy. That there are "sufficient funds available....for an appropriate solution" is the only hope I can extract from your letter.

I cannot imagine that this crisis is more disturbing to me than it is to you and so I wish you well and all possible speed in affecting a remedy. As over two months have elapsed since our last correspondence, I write to request that you update me as to the progress obtained. I have not seen in the paper that dredging has commenced although I deeply hope this is the case. I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest possible convenience.

Very truly yours,



Elizabeth J. Moore