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*City of New Bedford*

CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
City Hall • 133 William St. • New Bedford, MA 02740 • (508) 979-1488

December 24, 1992

Gayle Garmen, Remedial Project Manager  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
(HRM-CAN3)  
JFK Federal Building  
Boston, MA 02203

RE: EPA's Preferred Alternative for the City of New Bedford's  
Estuary/Lower Harbor.

Dear Ms. Garmen:

This letter is in response to your October 27, 1992 letter, requesting the clarification of the City's plans regarding EPA's Preferred Alternative for the Estuary/Lower Harbor.

The first issue raised in your letter was in regard to the final disposal of the PCB contaminated grit in the old Bellville Avenue interceptor. If in fact the City is permitted by DEP to seal the main, permanently entombing the contaminated material, the City would like to explore the possibility of identifying the interceptor as a CDF. In the event that EPA decides to dredge the areas by outfalls 001 and 002, instead of capping them, the City requests that dredged material be placed in the interceptor/CDF. The reason for this being, that the City is in the process of developing an extensive marina and pier maintenance dredging plan for the harbor, and has targeted CDF 7/extension of the North Terminal Bulkhead as an area for the disposal of a substantial amount of this dredged material. Volumes of dredged material are to be identified in the final Harbor Master Plan.

In addition to the City's planned maintenance dredging, the Army Corps of Engineers is planning maintenance dredging of the navigational channels, and will also require a disposal area for this material. By using the interceptor as a CDF, EPA will conserve critical and very limited storage space, thus reducing the amount of wetland area that must be destroyed to accommodate additional CDF's.

The City does not wish to prohibit EPA from using this area for a CDF, however, the City would like some assurance that there will be a sufficient amount of area available for the disposal of its dredged material. I am sure that EPA is well aware of the difficulties involved in the disposal of dredged material, especially material that has been determined not to be "clean."

The City is also very interested in exploring the opportunity of using some of its dredged material to cap EPA's CDF.

Ms. Gayle Garmen  
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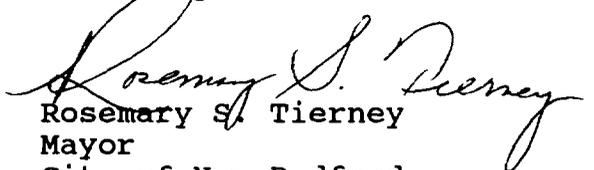
In regard to the second issue, I again emphasize the continued need for coordination of EPA's preferred alternative for remediation of the sediments adjacent to the treatment plant outfall and the strong possibility that the City will be required to install a diffuser at the outfall.

The third issue raised, identifies use limitations for CDF 7. The City's intent is to use CDF 7/extension of the North Terminal Bulkhead, as additional docking and loading/unloading area for the fishing fleet. A warehouse has also been proposed for the storage of freight from cargo ships. The City's plan appears to be in agreement with EPA's limitations as presented. However, the City requests that if there is to be a prohibition on any underground utilities or other subsurface intrusions within CDF 7, that EPA relocate any existing utilities or CSO's as was previously agreed upon at the August 26, 1992 meeting.

The fourth issue has already been addressed in the first issue, but I would like to once again emphasize the City's requirement for sufficient storage capacity for its dredged material. In addition, the City is aware that EPA is not authorized to dredge areas that do not exceed the risk-based target cleanup level. The City and/or marina's involved, plan to hire its own contractor to do the job.

Once again, the City is pleased to be coordinating its efforts regarding the construction of the secondary sewage treatment plant and the Harbor Master Plan, with EPA's Superfund cleanup in the New Bedford Harbor. If you have any questions please contact Elizabeth Bettencourt.

Sincerely,

  
Rosemary S. Tierney  
Mayor  
City of New Bedford

CC: Ron Labelle, Superintendent Wastewater  
Larry Worden, Commissioner Department of Public Works  
Marty Manley, Director Harbor Development Commission  
Arthur Caron, City Solicitor  
Elizabeth Bettencourt, Environmental Planner