

60221



MAYOR
ROSEMARY S. TIERNEY

133 William Street
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740
508-979-1410
Fax: 508-991-6189

City of New Bedford

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

January 3, 1997

Mr. David Dickerson
U.S. EPA, Region I
JFK Federal Building, HBO
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Mr. Dickerson:

I am writing on behalf of the City of New Bedford to offer comment on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Proposed Cleanup Plan for the Upper and Lower New Bedford Harbor, dated November 1996.

I support the current plan to dredge approximately 450,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from the New Bedford Harbor and contain the sediments in Confined Disposal Facilities (CDFs) along the New Bedford shoreline. It is recognized that this is not a perfect solution to the problem but, at this time, the consensus is it permits further consideration of a better remedy. I encourage EPA and all others involved, to continue studies of treatment alternatives prior to final capping of the CDFs. I also encourage the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to work with the City to determine the best future uses and appropriate engineering considerations for all proposed CDFs.

I am also in full support of the request of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for an enhanced remedy to include navigational dredging as a part of this proposed cleanup plan. Both the Superfund and the navigational dredging of New Bedford Harbor are very critical to the economic revitalization of our City and region. The development of our harbor and waterfront is vital and complements the other improvements planned for our regional airport and commuter rail. In short, it means jobs and economic recovery at a time when the federal budget will be reduced, welfare to work reform will be implemented, Brownfield initiatives continue as positive environmental projects and Congress considers the reauthorization of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Act (ISTEA) as we think about moving people and goods more in the total context of transportation and not just highways. Therefore, I encourage the State and the EPA to expedite these projects as much as possible. If it is ultimately determined

Mr. David Dickerson

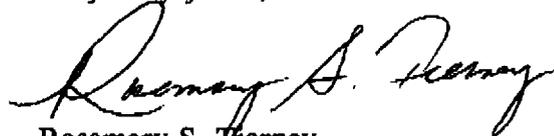
January 3, 1997

Page 2

that one project will in some way hinder or hold up the other, I encourage that they proceed on separate tracks, rather than one.

I look forward to working with the EPA, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the local Community Forum toward completion of this very important dredging and cleanup of the New Bedford Harbor.

Very truly yours,



Rosemary S. Tierney
Mayor

RST/lp

cc: Senator Edward Kennedy
Senator John Kerry
Congressman Barney Frank
Governor William Weld
Senator Mark Montigny
Representative Joseph McIntyre
Representative Antonio Cabral
Representative Robert Koczera
Representative William Straus
Representative Thomas Quinn
City Council President George Rogers
Paul Craffey, MADEP
Arthur J. Caron, Jr., Corporation Counsel
Molly Fontaine, Environmental Planner