

13.4 62637

**New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site
Meeting
June 14, 1994
6:00 p.m.
Acushnet Elementary School**

AGENDA

- Presentation on impact of inability to dredge on the economic vitality of New Bedford Harbor: Captains Taylor and Fisher
- Status of Phase II Clean-up
- Selection of innovative technology(ies) for remediation of the hot spots
- Scheduling issues
- Subcommittee activity

**Summary of Meeting Held June 14, 1994
on the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site**

In attendance at the session were:

Facilitators

Michael Keating
Jane Walls

HATR

Alan Eschenroeder
Eugene Grace
David Hammond

Concerned Parents of Fairhaven

Patricia Estrella
Claudia Kirk

New Bedford City Council

David Gerwatowski
Fred Kalisz, Jr.
George Rogers

DEP

Paul Craffey
Allexe Law-Flood
Madelina Snow

New Bedford Mayor's Office

Elizabeth Wright

Downwind Coalition

Neal Balboni
Diana Cobbold
Carol Sanz

NOAA

Ken Finkelstein
John Terrill

EPA

Frank Ciavattieri
Gayle Garman
Harley Laing
John McNeil

State Elected Officials

Rep. Bill Straus

Town of Acushnet

Roland Pepin
Jackie Brightman

Approximately 20 members of the public observed the meeting, which was videotaped for subsequent broadcast on local cable television.

The Committee heard first from Capt. Michael Taylor of Maritime Terminal in New Bedford Harbor and Capt. Bruce Fisher of the Northeast Pilots' Association. The latter described the extent and impact of the silting of the shipping channel into and within New Bedford Harbor on shipping operations, while the former analyzed the economic impact of silting on the shipping and cargo handling businesses in New Bedford. Both urged the necessity for an immediate maintenance dredging project in the harbor.

Subsequent discussion revealed that the Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to do a survey over the next year of conditions in the channel, with a view to conducting dredging. The problem is disposal of the dredged materials. It became clear that, while there is no direct link between the navigational dredging sought by the presenters and the environmental dredging currently included in the second phase of the superfund clean-up project, there is some indirect linkage due to the fact that the Phase II clean-up could use some limited amounts of clean

: NEXT MEETING OF THE NEW BEDFORD HARBOR SUPERFUND SITE COMMITTEE :
: WILL BE ON TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1994 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE GREATER :
: NEW BEDFORD VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL :

fill from the channel to cover contaminated sediments in the CDFs and the current version of Phase II calls for the construction of a bulkhead CDF (#7) near the North Terminal, part of which the City could use to store up to 100,000 cubic yards of dredged materials from the channel by building an additional wall. It became clear that the Committee's deliberations on dredging and the choice of an alternative technology in connection with the remediation of the hot spots has had no direct effect on plans for, or the pursuit of, a maintenance dredging commitment from the Corps of Engineers. Indeed, the two dredging operations, the one for cleaning the channel and that associated with the clean-up, are entirely separate. Nonetheless, the Committee unanimously urged again immediate efforts to expedite the processing of Phase II plans for the harbor clean-up and endorsed the need for maintenance dredging of the navigational channel as soon as possible.

Gayle Garman from EPA then presented an update on the status of plans for the second phase of the New Bedford Harbor clean-up. As a result of public comments submitted after the proposal plan was presented publicly, some changes have been incorporated in the plan, including the creation of the bulkhead CDF #7 with its excess storage, described above, and the elimination of a proposed CDF in a wetlands area on the east shore of the Acushnet River in Fairhaven. EPA will initiate steps for a sharing of the revised plan with the Committee and the beginning of another public review and comment period.

The Committee then turned to the consideration of alternative technologies for dealing with the hot spot sediments. Discussion focused almost exclusively on solidification/stabilization, since EPA asserted that treatability work on that technology could be completed substantially more rapidly than for other alternative technologies (one month vs. nine to twelve months). That assertion, which did not seem to be supported by available EPA materials on demonstrated and emerging technologies, is apparently based on the relative simplicity and reliability of bench-testing for solidification alternatives, while separation and destruction approaches would require much more elaborate pilot testing. Considerable discussion of the track record of solidification as a treatment alternative followed, as well as considerable debate over the priority that should be assigned to timeliness in the selection of a technology(ies).

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Committee agreed to continue the useful inter-session dialogue between citizens' groups and the agencies' and their respective technical personnel. The groups were charged with the task of developing, as far as possible, a joint recommendation to the full Committee at its next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 5. If they are unable to agree on all of the elements of such a recommendation, they will each present to the Committee their own preferred version of the disputed element(s) for the Committee's determination.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 5, 1994 at the Greater New Bedford Vocational High School at 6:00 p.m.