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NEW BEDFORD HARBOR SUPERFUND SITE
INFORMATION UPDATE

EPA 63050
REGION 1
APRIL 1991

HOT SPOT AREA DESIGN UNDERWAY FOR THE NEW BEDFORD HARBOR CLEANUP

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and their engineering design contractor, ERM-New England, are developing the design for the Hot Spot area cleanup. In addition to the Hot Spot design work, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will prepare the site this fall for future remediation activities.

Hot Spot Cleanup

In April 1990, EPA issued a Record of Decision for the Hot Spot cleanup for New Bedford Harbor. EPA's cleanup plan calls for 10,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediments to be dredged from the harbor just south of Wood Street. The dredged sediments will be transported by a floating hydraulic pipeline to the Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) located at the foot of Sawyer Street. The CDF will be used to store the dredged sediments and to help dewater them.

After dewatering, the sediments will be burned in a high-temperature, transportable incinerator located next to the CDF. The water from the sediments will be treated to remove PCBs and metals prior to discharging it back into the harbor. The ash from the incinerator will then be stored in the CDF and covered. The cleanup sequence is illustrated in the attached figure.

EPA's Record of Decision provides the basic steps that will be followed for the cleanup. The design phase provides the detailed information that is needed to actually build and operate the incinerator and other cleanup equipment.

Hot Spot Remedial Design

In November 1990, the Army Corps of Engineers hired ERM-New England, a Boston-based engineering firm, to complete the Remedial Design. This work is being managed by the Army Corps of Engineers' Omaha office and reviewed by EPA and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The Remedial Design process starts with the general outline of the remedy provided in the Record of Decision and builds on it in a series of steps to provide a very detailed set of design plans and specifications. These plans and specifications describe how the cleanup work will be done, what equipment will be used, how long the work will take, and estimates how much it will cost.

The Remedial Design is a three-step process. First, starting with the information from the Record of Decision, a Concept Design is developed. The Concept Design, as the name implies, gives a conceptual idea of how the cleanup will be done. Major pieces of equipment, like the incinerator, are sized, process diagrams are created and a detailed review is conducted to ensure that the design follows appropriate environmental laws and regulations. The Concept Design was completed on March 1, 1991.

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Second, building on the Concept Design, a Preliminary Design is completed. The Preliminary Design adds details to the cleanup plans, like the exact size and type of equipment needed, and includes a complete set of draft cleanup specifications explaining how the remediation will be conducted. ERM-New England is scheduled to submit the Preliminary Design in May, 1991.

Finally, the plans and specifications developed in the Preliminary Design are revised and further refined for the Final Design. The Final Design is approved by both EPA and Army Corps of Engineers and consists of the finalized plans and the detailed cleanup specifications that the cleanup contractor will follow to actually conduct the remediation. ERM-New England is scheduled to submit the Final Design in September, 1991.

After the design is completed, the Army Corps of Engineers will solicit bids from cleanup contractors to implement the remedy. Dredging operations should begin in the Spring of 1992 and be completed by the fall.

Site Preparation

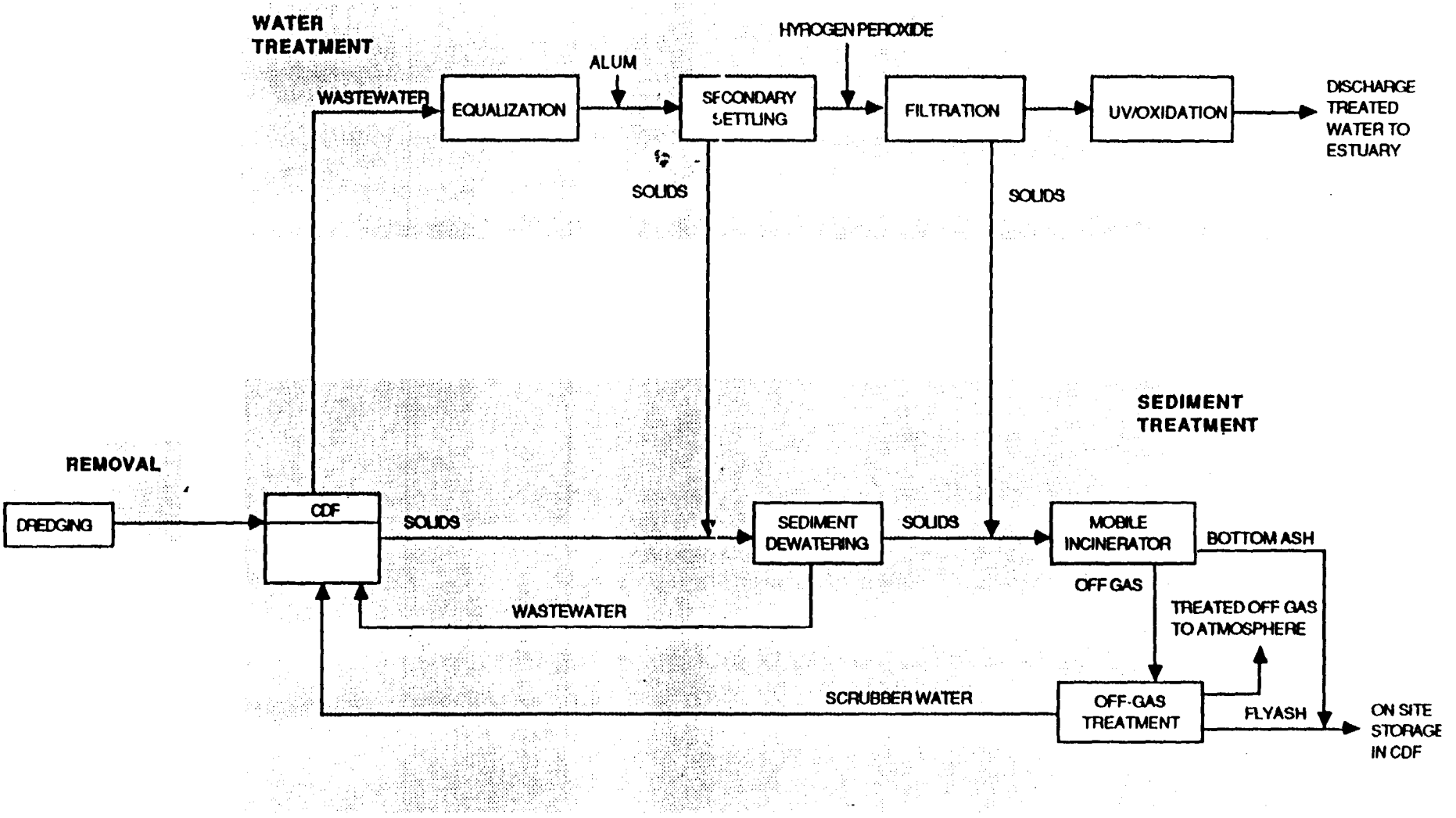
While the design work is underway for the Hot Spot cleanup, the Army Corps of Engineers' New England Division (NED) is moving forward with preparing the site for the remediation work next year. This includes grading the property so it is ready for the incinerator and other cleanup equipment and adding a liner to the CDF so it can safely hold the dredged sludge during the Hot Spot cleanup.

Upper Estuary and Harbor Cleanup

EPA will be issuing its proposed cleanup plan for the rest of the upper estuary and harbor later this Spring. This cleanup plan will address PCB-contamination in the harbor as a separate remediation program. The cleanup of the remainder of the site will not begin until after the completion of the Hot Spot remediation program.

For further information contact: Mary Sanderson, EPA's Remedial Project Manager at (617) 573-5711 or James Sebastian, EPA's Community Relations Coordinator at (617) 565-3423

PROCESS FLOW DIAGRAM
HOT SPOT REMEDIATION
NEW BEDFORD HARBOR



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