

EPA and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to Hold a Public Informational Meeting and Public Hearing on July 24 on a Proposed South Terminal Confined Disposal Facility

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be hosting an informal Public Informational Meeting to discuss EPA's draft determination related to the Commonwealth's proposal for development of a confined disposal facility ("CDF") at the South Terminal location in New Bedford (the "Terminal"). EPA anticipates issuing its draft determination on or about July 13, at which time a 30 day public comment period will begin.

The **Public Informational Meeting** will be held on **July 24, from 6:00-7:30 pm** at the **Fort Taber Community Center, 1 Rodney French Blvd., New Bedford MA**. A presentation of the proposed project will be provided. Representatives from EPA, The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will be available to address specific questions about the proposal and the draft determination.

Immediately following the Informational Meeting, EPA and the Commonwealth will conduct a formal **Public Hearing** from **7:30 to 9:00 pm** to accept formal comments on EPA's draft determination. Information about how to submit formal public comments will be provided in the draft determination, at the Informational Meeting and the start of the Public Hearing.

If you have specific needs for either meeting or questions about how to submit comments or about the meeting facility and its accessibility, please contact EPA's Community Coordinator, Kelsey O'Neil at 617-918-1003 or at oneil.kelsey@epa.gov. An interpreter will be present at both meetings. Proceedings at the Public Hearing will be recorded.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has requested that EPA include construction of the CDF as part of the State Enhanced Remedy ("SER"). The SER is already incorporated into the 1998 Record of Decision for the Upper and Lower Harbor at the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site (1998 ROD); and, until now, the SER consisted of navigational dredging and disposal of dredged sediment in Confined Aquatic Disposal facilities (CADs). This would be the first time navigational dredged material would be disposed of in a CDF in New Bedford Harbor. The Commonwealth's proposal includes navigational dredging of approximately 44.94 acres of waters in New Bedford Harbor, and filling of approximately 0.18 acres of salt marsh and 6 acres of other Harbor waters with navigational dredged material, in order to construct a multi-purpose marine terminal, the primary purpose of which will be to provide critical infrastructure to serve offshore renewable energy facilities and accommodate international shipping. The proposal also involves dredging to construct an 8.76 acre Confined Aquatic Disposal Cell (CAD) to be used for disposal of navigational dredged material and to fill portions of previously constructed CADs.

The Commonwealth's proposal, which addresses the scope of the project, alternatives, environmental impacts, and mitigation, can be found on EEA's website, at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/ocean-coastal-management/serth/>

and at the New Bedford Public Library, 613 Pleasant St., New Bedford, MA.

More information about the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site can be found at www.epa.gov/nbh, including a copy of EPA's draft determination prior to the Informational Meeting. A copy of the draft determination will also be available at the public meeting and the public hearing.

The public is also invited to view or hear the public informational meeting and hearing via the following media outlets: New Bedford Cable Access and WBSM Radio