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Dave Dickenson
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Feb. 23-2002

New B

Sir

I live on the Acushnet side of the river. Newspaper quote sending opinions on to you, therefore is the reason for this letter.

I would be in favor of shipping the the sediment (all of the sediment be shipped out of the state. Being the cheaper way to handle the matter there should be no question. Shipping out of our state should be the answer.

Yours Truly
Antone Rodrigues
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Acushnet MA

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DD

EPA considers change to harbor plan

May ship sediment to landfill in another state

By AARON NICODEMUS
Standard-Times staff writer

NEW BEDFORD — As part of the federal harbor cleanup scheduled to begin next year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed eliminating one of the four huge sediment landfills that would fill in sections of New Bedford Harbor.

Instead, the sediment, contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls, would be shipped to an out-of-state landfill.

The EPA has scheduled a public hearing on the proposal from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6, at the New Bedford Free Public Library. An informational meeting on the harbor cleanup will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The cleanup plan for New Bedford Harbor calls for the dredging of nearly 500,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment, starting in 2003.

That's enough sediment to fill approximately 75 football fields with sediment 3 feet deep (if you include the end zones). The dredging could go on for up to 10 years.

Once dredged, the contaminated sediment would be sent through a desanding facility, and then a dewatering facility. The resulting slightly damp "filter cake" would be permanently placed in four different sections of the harbor. These so-called confined disposal facilities (CDFs) would be like sediment landfills in the harbor and would fill in parts of the existing harbor, extending land into the water. They would essentially be capped like landfills, and the EPA proposes eventually planting grass on them and making public parks.

Because of a variety of concerns, the EPA has decided that it might not want to build the largest of these CDFs, labeled D, a 17-acre sediment landfill that would be at the junction of Herman Melville and Hervey Tichon avenues on the North Terminal waterfront. The sediment scheduled to be disposed of there would be shipped out of state.

The EPA has run into technical problems with the construction of CDF D, namely that the sediment in that area is too weak and silty, which poses "difficult and costly engineering challenges," according to an EPA informational brochure. Building the landfill would also seal off a significant portion of the waterfront from future marine industrial use. This is the area of the harbor where the city of New Bedford would someday like to build a combined rail and water transportation facility.

Another factor is money. Building CDF D is $7 million more expensive than sending the sediment away to another site.

Plans for the other three CDFs are still up in the air, according to EPA spokeswoman Stacy Greendlinger. The engineering plans for CDF C, an 8-acre landfill to be built at the end of Sawyer Street where the EPA currently has a facility, are well under way, she said. Engineering plans for the other two landfills, A and B, have not been drawn up because the project may not require them, she said.

The EPA would like to hear the public's opinion on its harbor cleanup plans. If unable to attend the public hearing, people can comment in writing by mail or e-mail before March 26, 2002.

Mail should be sent to Dave Dickerson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, One Congress Street, Suite 1100 (HBO), Boston, MA 02114. E-mail can be sent to commentsNBH@epa.gov