

**Brownfields Cleanup Community Relations Plan
Former Payne Cutlery Site, 295 Phillips Avenue
New Bedford, Massachusetts**

1.0 OVERVIEW

The purpose of this Community Relations Plan (the “CRP”) is to explain the communication strategies of the City of New Bedford (“the City”) that will address the needs and concerns of the residents living in that portion of New Bedford, Massachusetts, particularly the residents who are directly or potentially affected by the proposed site remediation activities in the vicinity of the former Payne Cutlery Site at 295 Phillips Avenue, New Bedford, MA (the “Proposed Project”). This CRP describes how the City has and will involve affected residents and local organizations in the decision-making process regarding the environmental remediation efforts at the site.

In working in this community, the City has found that residents and community-based organizations are essential resources for the success of the Proposed Project, as they hold positions of responsibility within the community. The City perceives the residents and organizations as key points of contact and communication. The success of the environmental remediation in the vicinity of the former Payne Cutlery property hinges on informed citizen involvement during each step of the remediation process.

Between 2000 and the present, several phases of environmental investigations were conducted at the Site. These investigations revealed chlorinated solvent contamination in groundwater and indicated a potential for soil vapor intrusion into the adjacent Taber Mill elderly housing facility. This contamination is attributed to a past chlorinated solvent use at the Payne Cutlery facility.

In October 2007, the City was awarded a \$200,000 Brownfields Cleanup Grant by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to conduct the required cleanup of the Former Payne Cutlery Site. The cleanup grant funds were used by the City to hire a consultant, TRC Environmental Corporation (TRC), to design a cleanup plan, and will also be used to hire a contractor to conduct remediation work. Environmental cleanup at the site will be conducted in accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection’s Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP; 310 CMR 40.0000) under the direction of a Licensed Site Professional.

2.0 SPOKESPERSON AND INFORMATION REPOSITORY

Spokesperson for the Proposed Project is Cheryl Henlin, Environmental Planner with the City’s Department of Environmental Stewardship, and the Information Repository has been established at the City’s Department of Environmental Stewardship.

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Persons wishing to review reports and/or other information relative to environmental conditions at the Site should visit the City’s Environmental Stewardship Office Monday through Friday between 8 AM and 4 PM. Information will also be available through the City’s website for the Former Payne Cutlery Site (http://www.newbedford-ma.gov/Environmental/brownfields/Collette_Coffin_Phillips.html).

3.0 SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

3.1 Site Location

The former Payne Cutlery Site consists of a vacant 3.3-acre parcel located in an industrial and residential area of New Bedford, Massachusetts. The former address of the Payne Cutlery facility was 295 Phillips Avenue. The environmental contamination to be addressed by this proposed cleanup activity is located on the southern portion of the former Payne Cutlery site, near the intersection of Coffin Avenue and Brook Street.

3.2 Site History

A former 100,000 square-foot one-to-two story brick building formally occupied the Site until it was demolished in September/October 2000. The Site is currently vacant with no structures, and is surrounded by a chain-link fence. The Site is relatively flat with a slight downward slope in a southerly direction. The Site is reportedly covered by a fill layer two-to-four feet thick consisting of asphalt, brick and concrete demolition debris from the former structures on the Site.

The Site has a long history of industrial use dating from the early 1900s when it was developed for cotton fabric milling operations. New Bedford Cotton Mills Corporation purchased the Site in 1909 and occupied the Site until 1930 when Hoosac Mills Corporation purchased the Site. Farr Instruments, Incorporated purchased the Site in 1959, then four years later in 1963, Payne occupied the Site until 1988 for manufacturing shears and manicure implements. During this time, Site activities included cold pressing of steel, metal grinding, degreasing of metal with trichloroethene (TCE), as well as chromium and nickel electroplating. After Payne filed for bankruptcy in 1988, the Site was used for a number of activities, including a hazardous materials storage business and an auto body repair facility.

3.3 Nature of Threat to Public Health and Environment

The Site is bordered to the south across Coffin Street by residential homes and the Taber Mills apartment complex, which was formerly the Taber Mills textile manufacturing complex. To the east, the Site is bordered by residential homes across Oneko Lane.

The Site is not located within a current or potential drinking water source area. There are no institutions, surface waters, wetlands, drinking water supplies or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern located within 500 feet of the Site.

Two Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Release Tracking Numbers (RTNs) are associated with the Site.

- RTN 4-404 is associated with a reported release of petroleum in April 1987
- RTN 4-15373 is associated with a reported release of TCE in March 2000, which warranted the performance of an Immediate Response Action (IRA) at the Site under the MCP.

Several site investigation activities performed since 2001 have identified elevated concentrations of TCE in groundwater near the southern portion of the former Payne Cutlery site at the intersection of Coffin Avenue and Brook Street.

The potential for groundwater contamination to migrate into indoor air has been explored in the nearby residences and at Taber Mill. Soil vapors measurements near the residences did not show a health risk in

these locations. Vapors measured beneath Taber Mill indicated a possible migration pathway to indoor air, but site contaminants were not detected in air samples collected in the living areas of Taber Mill.

4.0 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

4.1 Community Profile

Based on 2011 census data for New Bedford, Massachusetts (www.census.gov), the total population in New Bedford is 95,183 people. The population density for the approximate 20 square-mile area of the City is 4,759 people per square mile.

2010 Census data further indicates that 74.5% of New Bedford residents are white, 6.4% are black or African-American, 16.7% are Hispanic, and 2.4% describe themselves as some other race. The median household income for New Bedford is \$36,172.

4.2 Chronology of Community Involvement

The City is the primary stakeholder in the plan for the cleanup for Proposed Project site. Through funding from EPA, the City has been able to conduct several site investigations and remedial activities at the Proposed Project site.

Strong and well established community relations will be instrumental in making sure the community is aware of what the City is doing in regards to the Proposed Project. In 2000, the City held a public meeting prior to the demolition of the site building at Payne Cutlery to discuss the City's plans and any community concerns. The City also met with area residents regarding indoor air sampling that was being conducted around that time. In 2006, the City held a public meeting to discuss its intention to apply for EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant funding. When funding was awarded in 2007, the City held another meeting to discuss the proposed workplan.

In 2012, the City has conducted several meetings with representatives from the Taber Mill elderly housing facility at 217 Deane Street and has communicated with nearby residents prior to and subsequent to the recent site characterization activities.

4.3 Key Concerns

Prior to initiation of cleanup activities, TRC will prepare an Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) that will identify the most appropriate means to clean up the Site. The key concerns anticipated in relation to Proposed Project include the following: (1) controlling potential exposure to contaminants by construction workers, pedestrians, residents, and others who may be present on or near the Proposed Project site during the performance of the cleanup activities, (2) controlling possible releases to subsurface infrastructure located beneath Brook Street and Coffin Avenue, (3) the proximity of the Proposed Project site to the street/sidewalks by pedestrians and motorists.

4.4 Continued Community Involvement

The City Community Outreach Program that will occur throughout the site remediation process will be multi-media based (website information updates [see the City's website for the Former Payne Cutlery Site (http://www.newbedford-ma.gov/Environmental/brownfields/Collette_Coffin_Phillips.html)], informational literature, and newspaper articles) and shall include public meetings hosted by the City (if requested, translators will be present), during which the community will be kept abreast of findings and next steps and will have an opportunity to ask questions. Public informational meetings will be scheduled

before and at the completion of the Proposed Project. Such meetings will be conducted at a location in reasonable proximity to the neighborhood. Press releases and public notices will be developed to inform the community about dates, locations, and agendas of upcoming meetings and will provide Proposed Project updates.

In conformance with the Brownfields Cleanup Grant requirements, the New Bedford Department of Environmental Stewardship, 133 William Street, Room 304, New Bedford, MA, has been established as the information repository for the Proposed Project – copies of the environmental assessments, risk assessments and other environmental information will be available to the public. The information repository will be updated with the inclusion of all meeting material, status reports, public comments, and other communications related to the Proposed Project.

Per EPA’s reporting requirements, once a draft ABCA has been completed, a legal notice will be printed in the New Bedford *Standard Times* announcing a 30-day public comment period on the report. During the comment period the City will provide written responses to any comments received, and these written responses will become part of the administrative record. The City will hold a community meeting during the 30-day comment period, to inform residents of the proposed cleanup plan and answer any questions regarding the project.

4.5 Schedule for Future Project Activities

The proposed schedule for future project activities is as follows:

- First public meeting – November 27, 2012 at 6:00 PM at Buttonwood Park Senior Center and Warming House.
- Decision Document – December 21, 2012.
- Modifications to the ventilation system at Taber Mill - December 16, 2012 through January 4, 2013.
- Implementation of the groundwater remediation remedy - December 16, 2012 through January 4, 2013.
- First post-injection sampling event February 4 through February 8, 2013.
- Second public meeting – to be scheduled between February 25, 2013 and March 1, 2013
- Second post-injection sampling event – second week of March, 2013.