DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

May 26, 2016

SUBJECT: Notification of Anticipated 2016 Remedial Action Work at the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site Project, New Bedford, Massachusetts

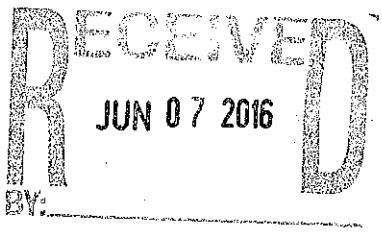
Ms. Sara E. Porter
City of New Bedford
Conservation Commission
133 William Street, Room 309
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02744

Dear Ms. Porter:

Please find attached a description of the remedial action work anticipated to occur during 2016 for the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site. USACE is providing this coordination letter to:

1. Inform you of upcoming activities associated with the harbor cleanup.
2. Provide a recent summary of completed work for the Upper and Lower Harbor Operable Unit #1 (OU#1).
3. Seek any comments you may have regarding implementation of the cleanup activities by 24 June 2016.

The USACE/EPA will continue to keep you apprised in a timely manner of the various upcoming phases of the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Project. Should you have any questions or concerns or if you would like any additional information regarding the work described above, please feel free to contact Ms. Ginny Lombardo, EPA Remedial Project Manager and Site Team Leader, at (617) 918-1754, Ms. Elaine Stanley, EPA Remedial Project Manager for the Upper Harbor work, at (617) 918-1332, or Mr. Dave Lederer, Remedial Project Manager for the Lower Harbor work, at (617) 918-1325.




Sincerely,

Scott E. Acone, P.E.
Chief, Engineering/Planning Division

Enclosures
Summary document

COPY FURNISHED (electronically):

Ms. Elaine Stanley
Remedial Project Manager
EPA Region I
Office of Site Remediation & Restoration
5 Post Office Square
Suite 100, OSRR 07-4
Boston, Massachusetts 02109-39126

Ms. Ginny Lombardo
Remedial Project Manager
EPA Region I
Office of Site Remediation & Restoration
5 Post Office Square
Suite 100, OSRR 07-1
Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3912

Mr. Dave Lederer
Remedial Project Manager
EPA Region I
Office of Site Remediation & Restoration
5 Post Office Square
Suite 100, OSRR 07- 4
Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3912

Ms. Ellen Iorio
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps Engineers
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2751

Mr. Peter Hugh
Technical Lead – Engineering Planning
U.S. Army Corps Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2751

SAME LETTER SENT TO:

Mr. Christopher Boelke
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Regional Office, Habitat Conservation Division
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930-2298

Mr. Steve Block
Coordinator
New Bedford Harbor Trustee Council
C/o National Marine Fisheries Service
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930

Ms. Carolyn Mostello
Wildlife Biologist
Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
North Drive, Route 135
Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

Mr. Joe Coyne
MA Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup
One Winter Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Mr. John Sheppard
MA Division of Marine Fisheries
1213 Purchase Street, 3rd Floor
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02744

Mr. Robert Boeri
Dredging Coordinator
Project Review Coordinator
MA Coastal Zone Management Office
251 Causeway Street, Suite 900
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Ms. Merilee Kelly
Conservation Agent
Acushnet Conservation Commission
122 Main Street
Acushnet, Massachusetts 02743

Mr. Wayne Fostin
Conservation Agent
Town of Fairhaven
40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts 02719

Mr. Tom Chapman
Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-4986

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# Anticipated 2016 Remedial Action Work at the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site Project, New Bedford, Massachusetts

## Site Overview:

New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site is divided into three management areas – the Upper Harbor, the Lower Harbor and the Outer Harbor, consistent with the geographical features of the area and gradients of PCB concentrations in sediment. The boundary line between the Upper and Lower Harbor is the Coggeshall Street Bridge where the width of New Bedford Harbor narrows to approximately 100 feet. The boundary between the Lower Harbor and Outer Harbor is the 150 foot wide opening of the New Bedford Harbor Hurricane Barrier (See Figure 1).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) selected the OU#1 cleanup plan (OU#1 Remedy) for the Upper and Lower Harbor areas in the September 1998 Record of Decision (ROD). Five subsequent Explanation of Significant Differences (ESDs) refined the approach over time. The major components of the OU#1 Remedy include, but are not limited to:

- Dredging of subtidal sediment mainly in the Upper Harbor, dewatering and off-site disposal.
- Removal of existing NSTAR electrical cables running beneath the Acushnet River and replacement of new cables in a conduit close to the old location.
- Excavation of contaminated sediment in the wetland areas and subsequent restoration of impacted wetlands.
- Mechanical dredging of sediment from the Lower Harbor and the southern end of the Upper Harbor, and disposal of that sediment in a confined aquatic disposal ("CAD") cell located in the Lower Harbor.
- Long-term operation and maintenance (O&M) of components of the harbor remedy include monitoring a pilot capped underwater area of sediment just southwest of the hurricane barrier in the Outer Harbor and the Pilot CDF (formerly known as the Debris Disposal Area or DDA) located at the Sawyer Street facility. The Lower Harbor CAD cell (LHCC) monitoring will be included once it is filled and subsequently capped.

- Long-term site-wide monitoring and institutional controls (e.g., seafood monitoring, seafood advisories and land use restrictions).

Most of the OU#1 work is being implemented through an interagency agreement between EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The remediation of the harbor is being accomplished in the most expeditious manner following careful planning and evaluation of the remaining contamination. Restoration of excavated intertidal areas will follow once cleanup goals have been met.

**Summary of 2015 work**

Last year EPA removed an estimated 39,000 cubic yards (CY) of PCB-contaminated sediment from several locations in the Upper Harbor using a hydraulic dredge. Construction of the Phase 2 Lower Harbor Confined Aquatic Disposal Cell (LHCC) was also completed (See Figure 2). The NSTAR transmission cables were decommissioned and removed from the river bottom. New cables were installed in an underwater conduit EPA built in 2001. Additionally, late in 2015, intertidal work in the Upper Harbor on the New Bedford side of the river between the Coggeshall Street bridge and the eastern end of Sawyer Street commenced, with completion of the restoration phase anticipated in the late spring of 2016.

A targeted sampling effort to fill in data gaps from historic sampling data in the intertidal areas along the river was performed.

**Anticipated 2016 Work**

Work planned for 2016 will be different than the full scale hydraulic dredging that has occurred for the past twelve years. A summary of recently started and planned work includes:

- Early in 2016 debris removal and mechanical dredging in subtidal areas of the Upper and Lower Harbor began. Dredged sediment is being placed in the LHCC.
- Later this year debris removal and mechanical dredging will continue in subtidal areas between the Coggeshall Street and Route 195 bridges and in the adjacent Upper Harbor.
- Clean-up of certain intertidal areas are also slated for this year.
- No hydraulic dredging is planned for 2016.

Environmental Controls

The boat-based real-time water quality monitoring program continues to monitor intertidal excavation, subtidal dredging, debris removal, placement of dredged material into the LHCC and other project-related construction activities. A silt curtain is deployed around the perimeter of the LHCC. Oil boom is readily available on the debris and dredge barges and will be deployed as necessary to control any oil liberated during

these activities. Excavation in the intertidal areas will be phased with the tides to minimize work occurring in the water.

A Fish Migration Impact Plan was developed outlining specific requirements of the dredge contractor to ensure that any impacts to fish passage are minimized in the project area. This document is updated annually to account for changes in site-specific dredging methods and areas being dredged. As a result of these measures, no observable impediments to fisheries migration were noted during previous years dredging activities from either decreased water quality or physical obstruction.

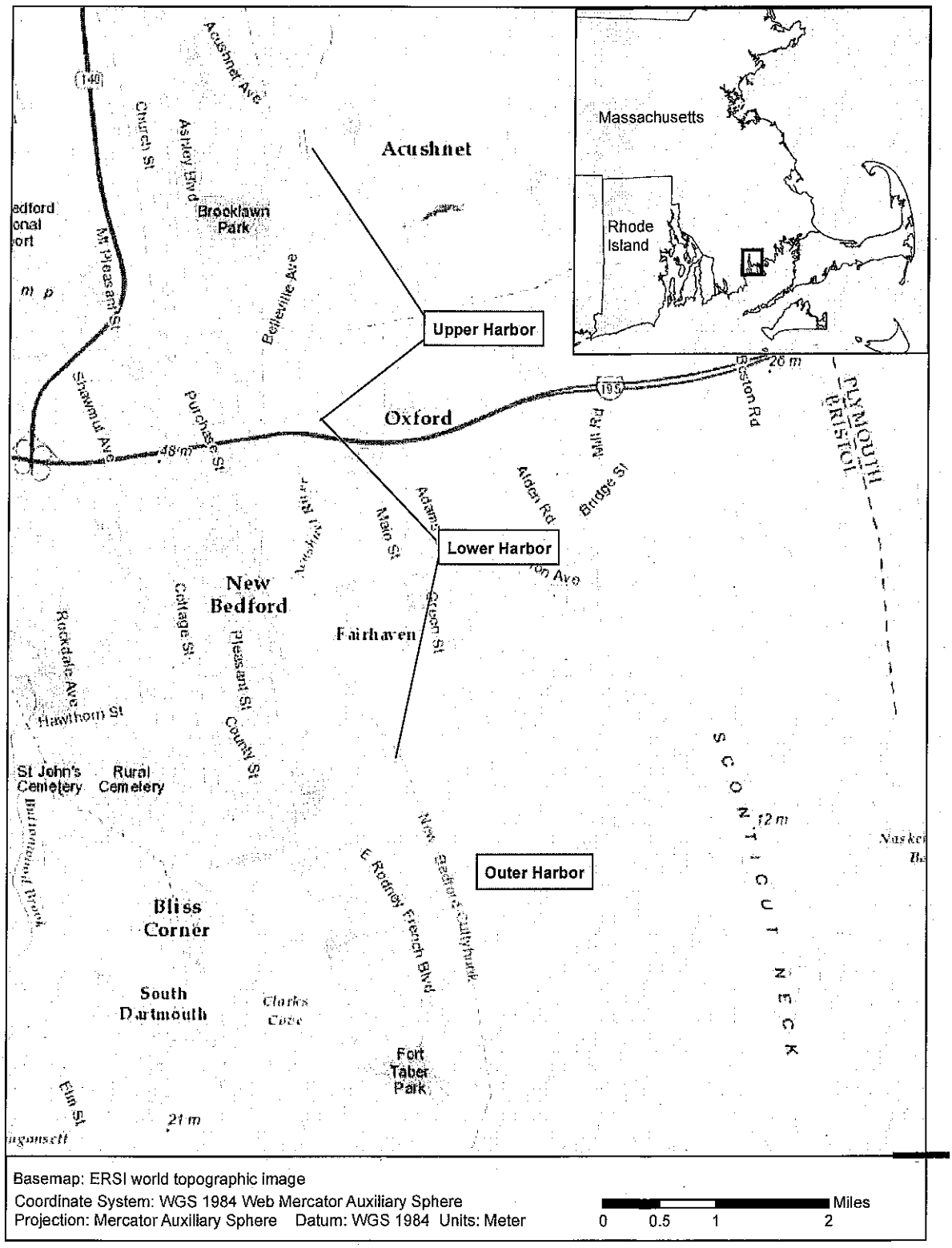


Figure 1 – New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site

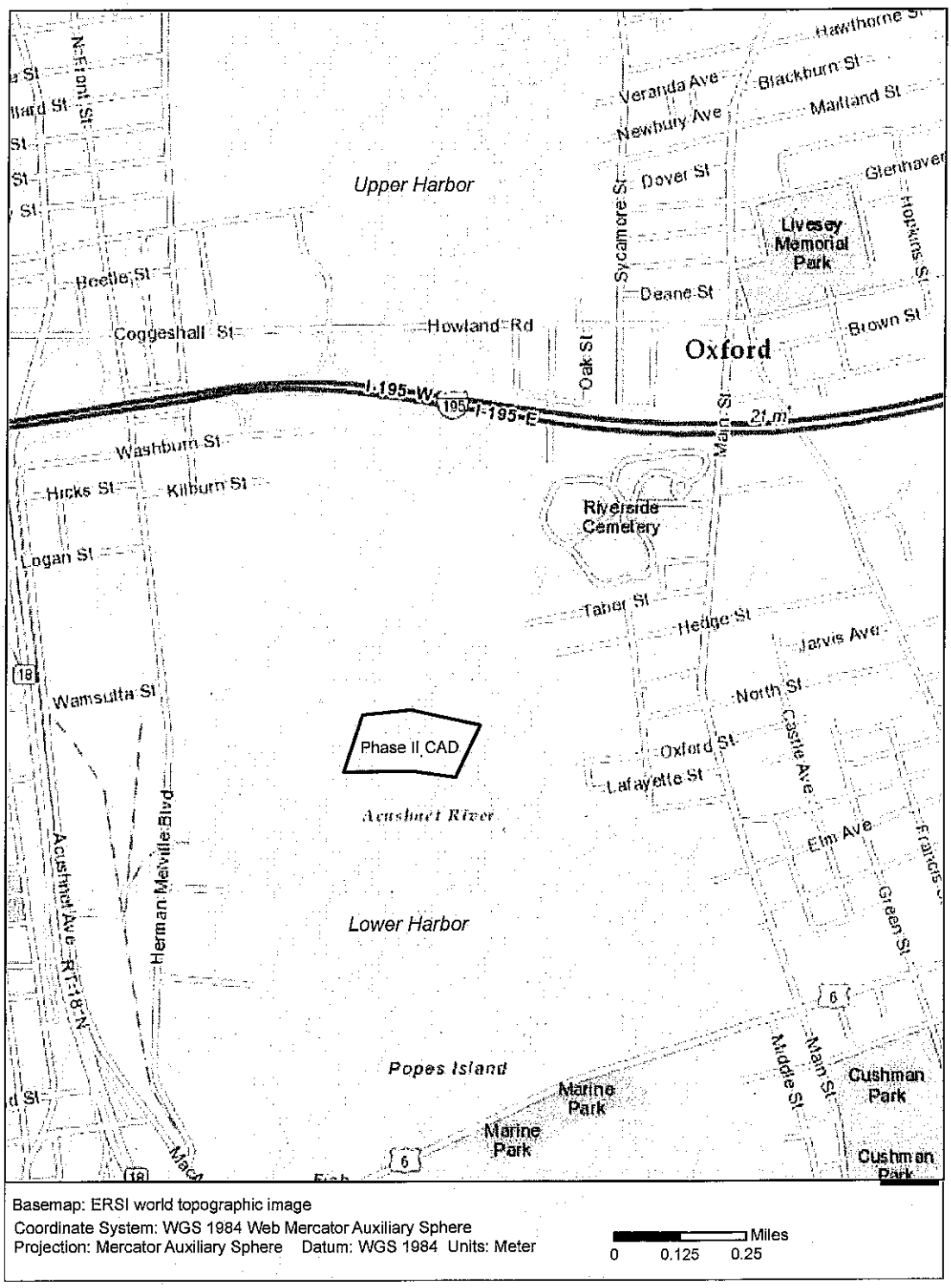


Figure 2: Lower Harbor CAD Cell Phase II