**New Bedford Harbor & Aerovox Mill Monthly Informational Meeting**
**May 26, 2011 6:30-8:00pm**

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***Informal Meeting Notes***

***Summary of Requests/Action Items:***

- A participant request for information on how frequently air monitors are calibrated at the Aerovox site
- A participant request to hold meetings every month
- A participant request to keep the time of the meetings constant

**Introduction: meeting goals, agenda overview, meeting guidelines**

Meeting facilitator David Plumb of the Consensus Building Institute welcomed everyone and offered meeting guidelines:

- Be respectful of each other - be tough on the problem, not on each other
- Speak one at a time; use the microphone (for cable access purposes)
- Share the floor

The facilitator introduced the agenda and explained the goals of the meeting.

**Aerovox Building Demolition Update and How to Sign Up for Aerovox Updates on your Cell Phone**

EPA provided an update on demolition plans for the Aerovox building and a description of air monitoring that is occurring. EPA also demonstrated how air monitoring results are available on the project website, and how anyone can sign up to receive air quality updates on their cell phones.

Meeting participants had a number of questions concerning air monitoring procedures, including how 10 hour interval monitoring is conducted, how often the monitors are calibrated per month, whether or not PCBs are included in those monitoring parameters, what are the other site contaminants, and what level of particulate reading will cause EPA to take extra precautions. A concern about exposure of abutting neighbors to air emissions from the project was also raised and about additional air monitors near the harbor or on the Fairhaven side to track site airborne contaminants offsite. A participant asked for a description of the truck routes.

*Site contaminants, in addition to PCBs, include asbestos and mercury. Most of the mercury-containing materials have already been removed and asbestos removal is currently underway. The main concern for site air emissions is dust contaminated with PCBs. EPA conducts a real time air monitoring program for particulates (dust). Air monitoring results for particulates are based on a 10 hr. time weighted interval; this means there is a reading every 5 minutes, averaged over 10 hrs. The*

*monitors are calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's guidance as specified in the EPA-approved Air Quality Monitoring & Management Plan: EPA will get back to the participant later with the exact answer.*

*With regard to monitoring for PCBs, the air monitors measure particulate matter as an indicator for PCBs, because PCBs being released would most likely be in particulate form. There is no way to measure PCBs in real time, so particulate matter is routinely used to assess the potential for PCBs in air. PCB monitoring is conducted at an off-site laboratory with unvalidated results being reported to EPA within three days for the initial sampling events. This monitoring works in tandem with the particulate matter monitoring to confirm association between PCB and PM monitoring results. If there are results that don't agree with the real-time particulate sampling, something will be done immediately.*

*As to safety measures for abutting neighbors, EPA has spoken to those living in the abutting neighborhoods and those residents have expressed satisfaction with current precautions, which includes stopping work when particulate readings reach 150 micrograms per cubic meter, an extremely conservative level. By comparison, the safe level set by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for workers at the site is 500 micrograms per cubic meter, significantly higher than our site specific level. In addition, dust suppression measures will be increased whenever particulate reading reach 75 micrograms per cubic meter. At that point an alarm will go off. If dust levels continue to rise, work will stop at 150 micrograms per cubic meter, and there will be a reevaluation to see if things need to be done differently.*

*For potential receptors beyond the abutting neighborhood, there are several monitoring stations for the dredging operation that would pick up any potential PCBs from this activity. Although there are samples taken at other locations near Aerovox, it is only done once per month during dredging operations. [EPA showed a map of the monitors that are further away.] Because contaminants disperse as they get further away from the source, if there is no problem at the site where contamination is concentrated, there will not be problems further away. In addition, years of air monitoring around the harbor have demonstrated that potential contaminants wouldn't disperse in directions suggested by the participant.*

*In response to traffic concerns, trucks leaving the site will take the shortest route down Belleville Ave. to route 195, either down Sawyer Street* or Coggeshall Street. *EPA has been coordinating with the City Council, and will add no parking zones on corners if it becomes difficult for the trucks to maneuver.*

**Summer 2011 Superfund Dredging Plan**

EPA described the dredging process and provided details of the planned 2011 dredging season.

Questions about dredging included discussion of the mud flats (Area N), the time spent on research and monitoring rather than dredging, and the relationship of mechanical dredging in the Sawyer Street area to the City's navigational dredging project. There were also concerns raised by participants about the City's plans to install a pier near Sawyer Street and the associated boating activity that would occur during the Harbor cleanup.

*EPA: With regard to monitoring and dredging activities, dredging cannot be done without monitoring. There has not been much additional monitoring added; only one extra air monitoring site near Sawyer Street. Dredging activities are moving forward and work on the mud flats is part of this year's plan.*

*Mud flat dredging is tide-dependent however; it will be done with hydraulic dredging, and that can only be done when there is a minimum of three feet of water.*

*There is no connection between the City's navigational dredging project and the mechanical dredging occurring at Sawyer Street. The purpose of the mechanical dredging at Sawyer Street is to enable the City to safely build a pier it has planned there for boating activities. This area is part of EPA's overall dredging plan slated for the next several years. When approached by the City, EPA agreed to dredge the area this year to ensure that the City's pier could be built without posing risks to human health. The mechanical dredging will remove 750 cubic yards of material in the intertidal and sub-tidal area. Fencing will be installed to prevent access to the river except via the pier. EPA is unsure about the timing of the pier construction but believes it would likely begin in the fall.*

*Pier construction permits are issued by the State, not EPA. Once notified of the City's intent to build the pier, EPA began, and continues to coordinate with the City on current risks in the area and the use of the pier. For example, upon notification, EPA determined there were PCB-contaminated sediment concentrations above its risk-based cleanup levels and rearranged its dredging plans in order to remove this sediment prior to construction of the pier. (EPA's PCB cleanup level for sub tidal and intertidal sediment in the upper harbor is 10 part per million (ppm); current PCB concentration levels in the sediment at Sawyer Street range between 30 and 410 ppm with only a few locations over 100 ppm). EPA also determined that fencing will be necessary and that there will be no boat activity while EPA is dredging.*

*EPA wants to make sure that when the pier is constructed and in use, risks from the Superfund site are addressed, mainly dermal contact and incidental ingestion. In addition to coordinating with the City, EPA is reaching out to coaches and boaters to educate them about precautions relating to the use the harbor, including steps to take if they were to come into contact with contaminated sediment and hosing off boats.*

**Additional participant questions and comments**

A participant raised concerns about the EPA's decision to go ahead with a CAD cell; others voiced concern about cancellation of next month's meeting and the length of this month's meeting

*The decision is final and EPA is moving forward with one CAD cell in the lower harbor. EPA considered all comments it received during the public comment period, both positive and negative. More people than not supported the CAD cell approach. While no project is risk free, EPA determined that using a CAD cell is a protective cleanup approach. Based on the risks, EPA decided it could be done if institutional controls were followed**]**. In an upcoming meeting, EPA will describe plans for a Technical Working Group that is intended to provide a forum for discussion and input to EPA around the implementation of the CAD cell.*

*As to the meeting concerns, this month's agenda contained more time for questions and answers than the previous meeting. As was the case during this meeting, more than half of the agenda will be reserved for questions and answers. This month's meeting was 15 minutes shorter because EPA had fewer items to report. Consistent with that, EPA wants to ensure that there is substantive information to share and that the meetings are productive. We don't expect to have any new developments to report on next month; also, in June, EPA is beginning office hours two to three days per week during working and evening hours. Exact details of times will be provided on our website shortly. All members of the community are encouraged to visit during these hours.*

**Call for future agenda topics, meeting adjourn**
*EPA said the next scheduled meeting would be towards the end of the summer and details of the CAD cell Technical Working Group would be one item for discussion.*