New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site

Fairhaven Board of Selectmen

September 29, 2014

History - New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site

- Former Aerovox Facility, located in Upper Harbor-New Bedford shoreline, discharged large amounts of polychlorinated biphenyls (or 'PCBs') from 1940s to 1970s causing widespread contamination.
- Designated as Superfund Site in 1983.
- 1998 "Record of Decision" or cleanup plan was modified by 4 subsequent documents called "ESDs".
- EPA's 2013 settlement with AVX Corporation will support expedited cleanup of the harbor – the cleanup will be mostly complete within 5-7 years.

EPA Cleanup Plan for Contaminated Sediment

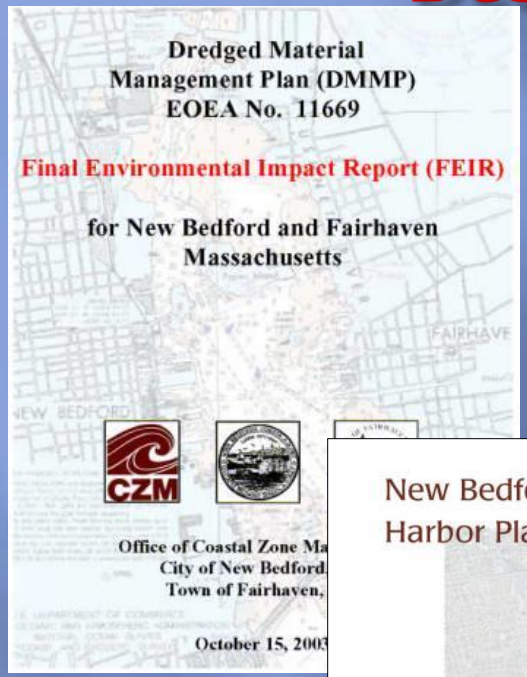
Decision Process, including Public Notification/Public Meetings

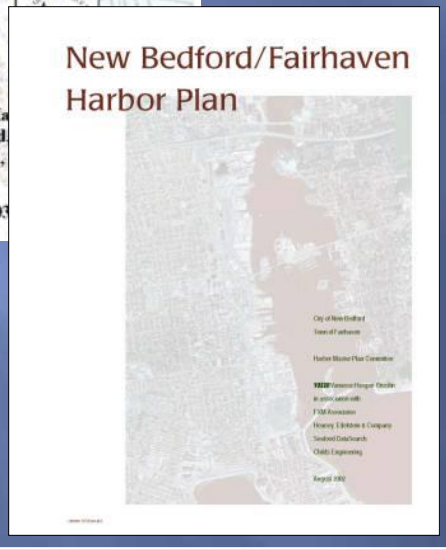
1998- EPA Record of Decision (including State Enhanced Remedy)

2001-ESD 1
2002-ESD2
2010-ESD3
2011-ESD4

After extensive public involvement, EPA selected and subsequently modified cleanup plan for the Harbor

Massachusetts State Process to Address Unsuitable Navigational Sediment in Designated Port Areas (NBH)

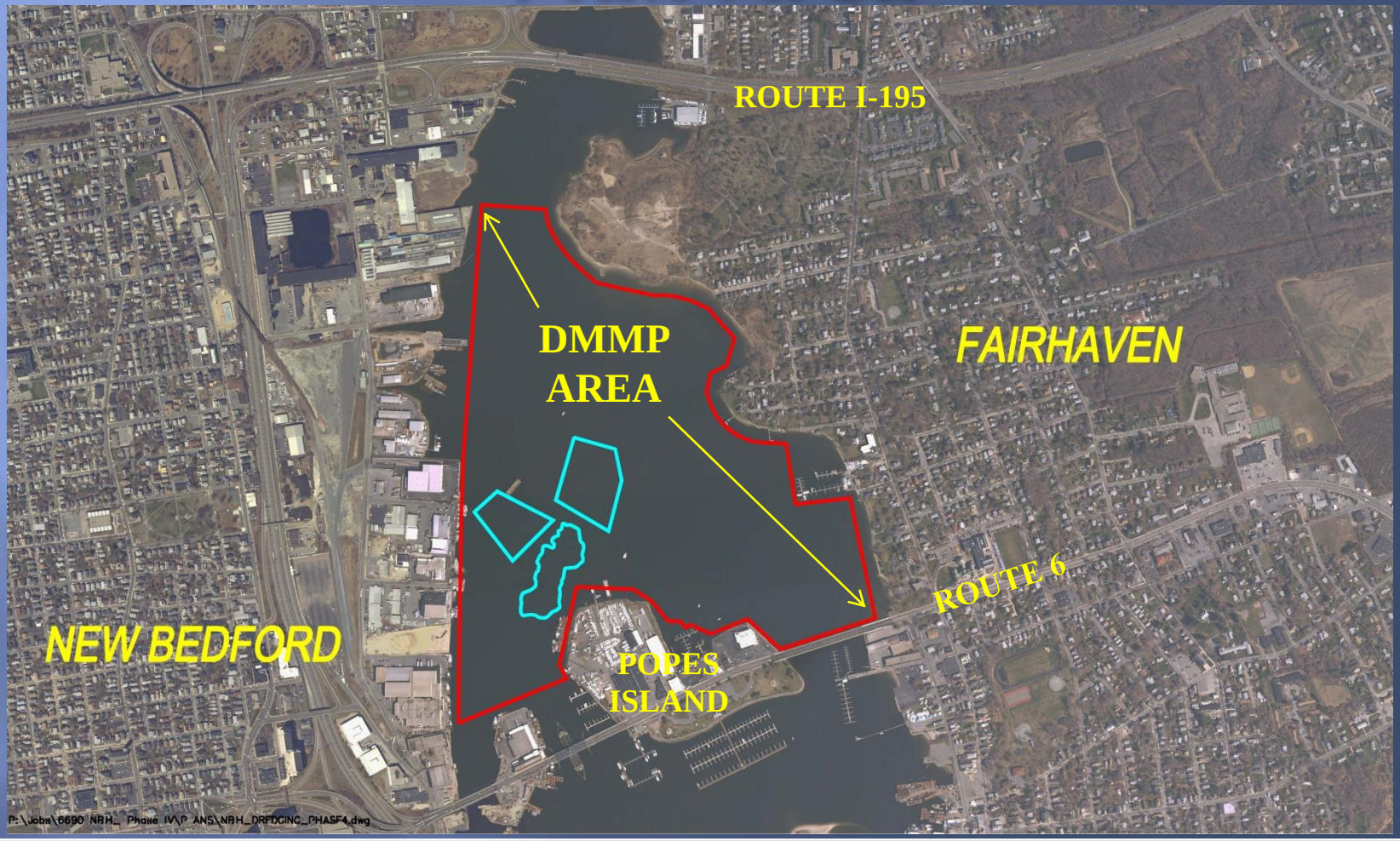




Public Notification/Public Meetings

Process Began in 1998
2002 – Draft EIR & New Bedford/Fairhaven Harbor Plan
2003 –Final EIR Dredged Material Management Plan
2005 – Project Change to DMMP
2008 – Project Change to DMMP
2010 – Updated New Bedford/ Fairhaven Harbor Plan

Dredged Material Management Plan Area



Lower Harbor CAD Cell

Public Process To Determine How/Where to Handle Contaminated Sediment

Public Notification/Public Meetings

2011 CAD Cell Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD #4)

- Dredging (primarily) of lower harbor
- Disposal in CAD cell in State Approved DMMP selected area north of Pope's Island

Lower Harbor CAD Cell Project

- Dredge 300,000 cubic yards of PCB contaminated sediment (mostly) from Lower Harbor;
- Contaminated at levels between 50 ppm and 190 ppm;
- Disposal in Confined Aquatic Disposal Cell (CAD) in Lower Harbor, allowed to consolidate.
- Three foot thick sand cap to cover consolidated material.

Confined Aquatic Disposal (CADs)

- Can be safely implemented and will permanently contain contamination:
  - Modelling showed CADs could be implemented safely
  - Monitoring of air and water quality during implementation confirm the modelling results
- Can be implemented more quickly than conventional dredging
- Cost effective

Schedule

- Lower Harbor CAD Cell, Phase I was completed July 2014
- Lower Harbor CAD Cell, Phase II beginning Fall 2014