New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site
Community Update on Site Activities – May 2018

Lower Harbor CAD Cell Disposal:

Dredging of PCB contaminated sediments below low tide elevations (subtidal) are now essentially complete south of Interstate 195. Approximately 176,000 cubic yards of dredge materials have been removed and placed in the Lower Harbor CAD Cell under the current contract. PCB levels in the remediated sediment averaged about 10 ppm, well below the level of 50 ppm required by EPA's cleanup plan.

Dredging followed by CAD Cell disposal will start in early May in the Upper Harbor just north of the Coggeshall Street Bridge in three areas. About 30,000 cubic yards removed from these areas will be dredged and disposed of in the Lower Harbor CAD Cell during May and June.

Shoreline Cleanups:

Marsh Island Update

Work on the shoreline cleanup of Marsh Island is now near completion. Some replanting of vegetation and other maintenance activities will continue in 2018.

There are twelve areas along the shoreline of Marsh Island where EPA cleaned up PCB contamination in 2017. All areas are located outside of the boundaries of the upcoming NOAA saltmarsh restoration at Marsh Island. The access road built for the EPA remediation will be left in place for use during the saltmarsh restoration project. Using the existing road will minimize impacts to abutters by avoiding removal and construction of another road in the future.

North Street Salt Marsh and "Between the Bridges" (Fairhaven)

The next shoreline cleanup will take place at the saltmarsh at the end of North Street in Fairhaven. Approximately 1,600 cubic yards of contaminated sediment will be excavated from this area, topsoil placed, followed by replanting and restoration of the saltmarsh. The removed material will be transported to EPA's Sawyer Street facility in New Bedford for dewatering and loaded onto larger trucks for transport to an offsite licensed landfill.

Following the North Street saltmarsh cleanup, remediation of the shoreline area between the Coggeshall Street and Route 195 bridges in Fairhaven will commence this summer/fall.

Soil and sediment sampling at both areas will be performed to demonstrate that the applicable PCB cleanup levels have been attained. Air and water quality monitoring will also be performed during the project.

Upper Harbor Wetlands (Acushnet) Update

Beginning in May 2018 brush clearing and access road construction will begin in the shoreline area furthest north in the upper harbor in Acushnet near the former Ball Plant One. Excavation of PCB-contaminated soil/sediment in this area's intertidal zone will then begin in summer/fall

2018, followed by clean topsoil placement and replanting of the saltmarsh. Shoreline soil and sediment sampling will continue on both sides of the upper harbor/Acushnet River in 2018 to define areas above cleanup levels.

Interim Sediment Cap Near the Aerovox Site:

Approximately 3 acres of highly contaminated shoreline and river sediment will be placed under an "Interim Cap" this Spring near the former Aerovox Mill Site so that dredging of the adjacent river sediments can proceed in sequence with EPA's cleanup. The Interim Cap will remain in place until the source of contamination from the Aerovox Site is eliminated under separate State and Federal cleanup programs.

Dredging and Disposal of Highly Contaminated Sediment from the Upper Harbor:

Cable Crossing Update

Dredging of the Cable Crossing area in the Upper Harbor began in October 2017, and is expected to be complete this Spring. About 35,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments have been dredged thus far from this area. PCB levels in this area averaged approximately 500 parts per million prior to the dredging.

North of the Cable Crossing:

Once dredging is complete in the Cable Crossing, the cleanup will proceed in a northerly direction towards the Wood Street Bridge. Approximately 60,000 cubic yards of highly contaminated sediment will be dredged and disposed of off-site between the Spring and Fall of 2018 from this area.

For more information, contact EPA community involvement coordinator Kelsey Dumville at 617-918-1003 (dumville.kelsey@epa.gov)