



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1

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January 10, 2011

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Barney Frank
Member of Congress
29 Broadway, Suite 310
Taunton, MA 02780

Re: New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site – Funding and Expenses for Years 2009 and 2010

Dear Congressman Frank:

Thank you for your December 6, 2010 letter regarding EPA's annual funding and expenses for years 2009 and 2010 for the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site (site). You enclosed a letter from several of your constituents who are concerned with the amount and type of funding that the site received in 2010. In addition, a spreadsheet was enclosed with your correspondence which EPA developed in October 2010 in response to several citizens' and your office's inquiry as to what funding EPA received and how the funding was expended. Note that the spreadsheet included several footnotes which were not attached in your correspondence. Those footnotes are enclosed for your information.

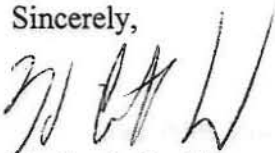
The New Bedford site has received substantial federal funding through the Superfund program for several years and the Agency is committed to continued funding and progress. As you know, EPA provided \$30 million for the site in April 2009 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), also known as stimulus funding. This was in addition to the site's planned annual funding of \$15 million. The stimulus funding allowed for 120 days of dredging in 2009, an extra 77 ½ more days than a typical season of dredging that is realized with the \$15 million budget (42 ½ days). There was approximately \$2.3 million remaining from the \$30 million stimulus funding. These funds were carried over to 2010.

In 2010, the project was slated to receive a total of \$15 million in funding, as it has in recent years. There was no additional dedicated stimulus funding planned for 2010 for the site. However, during the course of the year, additional ARRA funds became available from certain other ARRA Superfund projects across the country. Since this funding was required to be obligated to another Superfund site or job by September 30, 2010 or revert to the Treasury, it was placed where it could be used in a timely manner. The harbor site was given \$10 million of stimulus funding *in lieu* of \$10 million of the site's \$15 million annual headquarter funding. Therefore, the site received a total of \$15 million comprised of ARRA and newly appropriated 2010 resources.

In your constituents' letter, it was stated that the 2010 dredging season was the shortest season of the seven seasons to date. The 2010 season was actually one of the longest seasons which saw a higher than average number of dredging days – a total of 59 dredge days, in comparison to a typical 42 ½ -day dredging season.

I appreciate your interest in the harbor cleanup and hope that your constituents' concerns have been addressed. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may call Ms. Michael Ochs in the Office of Government Relations at (617) 918-1066.

Sincerely,



H. Curtis Spalding
Regional Administrator

Enclosure