

New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site  
Community Update on Site Activities

EPA Superfund Lower Harbor CAD Cell (LHCC) Update

EPA continues the cleanup efforts in New Bedford harbor, with a focus on dredging of contaminated sediment, followed by placement in the Lower Harbor Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) Cell (LHCC).

Update on Dredging:

The first phase of dredging in the Lower Harbor began February 1 and is now complete. The area selected for dredging was in the vicinity of the Cozy Cove Marina in Fairhaven as shown on the attached figure in green. Dredging work of this 13.5 acre area was completed between February and June. Post-dredging samples taken from the area averages about 14 parts per million for total PCBs. Contaminated dredge material from the lower harbor is disposed of in the Lower Harbor CAD cell.

The dredge work hours currently remain at 6:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday through Saturday, excluding federal holidays. Data collected from our monitoring network during the work all around the harbor show that levels of PCBs in air are well below any level of concern. Monitoring of water quality and air quality continue to be performed in conjunction with the work to make sure it is being done safely. Air and turbidity monitoring results are updated regularly on our website at <https://www.epa.gov/new-bedford-harbor/new-bedford-harbor-cleanup-plans-technical-documents-and-environmental-data#EnvironmentalMonitoringData>.

The remaining Lower Harbor areas to be dredged for placement in the Lower Harbor CAD cell are marked in blue on the attached figure. During July, dredging cleanup work moved to the portion of the Lower Harbor near Kyler Seafood at the end of Washburn Street.

Shoreline Cleanup Work:

In early January, EPA initiated cleanup of the New Bedford shoreline area located between the Coggeshall Street Bridge and the end of Sawyer Street. Excavation of an estimated 4,100 cubic yards of material was completed on March 1. The material was shipped off-site to a licensed disposal facility via truck and rail. Restoration activity along the shoreline is currently nearing completion. The City of New Bedford plans this to construct one of the first segments of the “Riverwalk” at this location, a pedestrian pathway eventually stretching 2.2 miles north to Wood Street.



**CAPTION: RESTORATION WORK AFTER SHORELINE CLEANUP NEARS COMPLETION BETWEEN COGGESHALL STREET AND THE END OF SAWYER STREET.**

#### Intertidal Sampling:

EPA performed historic sampling along the New Bedford Harbor shoreline between 1999 and 2001. EPA performed additional sampling in 2015 along the Acushnet, Fairhaven and New Bedford intertidal/shoreline on properties where updated access agreements were in place. In April 2016, all historic and updated 2015 intertidal/shoreline sampling results were transmitted to all Acushnet and Fairhaven property owners for which 2015 sampling was performed. Data will be transmitted to New Bedford property owners later this year. EPA is currently performing additional intertidal/shoreline sampling to address data gaps and in order to resample some historic sample locations. Additional sampling along the shoreline may be performed in the future to further refine remedial plans, if needed, and following any intertidal/shoreline remediation to document that cleanup levels have been achieved.

#### 2016 Summer Activities

#### Contract Status:

EPA continues to work with the Army Corp of Engineers to finalize the contracts for the remaining remediation efforts. EPA will continue to update the public on the contract status.

The focus of work this spring and summer will be on the dredging of the Lower Harbor and other areas slated for placement into the LHCC.

#### EPA Outreach Coordinators:

Through a cooperative agreement with the City of New Bedford, and working with the Community Economic Development Council (CEDC) in New Bedford, EPA hired local residents to conduct outreach and educate the public on EPA's seafood consumption restrictions and recommendations last summer. This outreach was part of the 2015 Community Involvement Plan, which focused on a variety of ways to educate the general public on the harbor cleanup and seafood guidance. With the City of New Bedford and CEDC, EPA is continuing this work in the summer of 2016. EPA staff gave an orientation to the Outreach Coordinators in May 2016 and they began their outreach in early June.

EPA continues to add information to the New Bedford Harbor Web page. New documents can be found on the right hand side of the homepage under our "What's New" box.

For additional information, please visit our website at [www.epa.gov/nbh](http://www.epa.gov/nbh) or contact

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