

SUMMARY OF MARSH ISLAND REMEDIATION BY USEPA

New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site – July 2017

WHAT: Marsh Island is actually a peninsula that juts out into New Bedford Harbor just south of the Rt. 195 bridge on the Fairhaven side. Soils and sediments between high and low tide in certain areas along the northern shore of this peninsula are contaminated with PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) above applicable EPA cleanup levels. The attached Figure 1 shows the twelve such areas where soil or sediment will be removed for offsite disposal. The total combined square footage of these 12 separate areas is approximately 42,000 sq. ft. (just under one acre). The total volume of PCB-contaminated soil and sediment to be removed from these twelve areas is approximately 1,730 cubic yards.

WHEN: This remediation work is currently planned to start in late summer or early fall 2017, and should take two to three months to finish. Intermittent access will be required after this time for occasional monitoring and maintenance activities.

HOW: EPA works hand in hand with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its contractors and subcontractors to accomplish this work. The project team will access the area using the southern terminus of River Avenue in Fairhaven, and then by building an access road from this terminus to the shoreline remediation areas. Once all the construction and remediation equipment is mobilized, the twelve removal areas shown on Figure 1 will be excavated. The removed material will then be transported to EPA's Sawyer Street facility in New Bedford for dewatering (addition of portland cement) and loading onto larger trucks for transport to an offsite licensed landfill.

Two rounds of soil and sediment sampling 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 to ensure it is being implemented safely. Once all the contaminated soil and sediment has been removed, clean backfill will be placed so that the removal areas can be restored with topsoil, saltmarsh plantings and native shrubs and trees.

OVERLAP WITH NOAA SALTMARSH RESTORATION: All of the twelve PCB removal areas are located outside of the boundaries of the upcoming NOAA saltmarsh restoration at Marsh Island. The access road discussed above will be left in place for use during this saltmarsh restoration project. This will minimize impacts to abutters since two construction efforts will be avoided (one by EPA to remove the access road, and one by NOAA to rebuild it).

FOR MORE INFORMATION: contact EPA community involvement coordinator Kelsey Dumville at 617-918-1003 (oneil.kelsey@epa.gov) or EPA project manager David Dickerson at 617-918-1329 (dickerson.dave@epa.gov).