

## **New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site Community Update on Site Activities – July 2017**

### June Public Meeting Follow up:

- Request for data: At the June 27, 2017 public meeting the following data was requested by a citizen:
  - PCB levels in Pierce Mill Cove intertidal work: pre and post dredging/disposal off-site. Please see the attached pdf data table for these results, as well as maps of the verification and confirmation sampling locations for Pierce Mill Cove.
  - PCB levels in cable crossing area in the Upper Harbor prior to dredging/disposal off-site. Please see the attached map and associated data for more information.

### Contract Award

- The US Army Corps of Engineers, New England District recently awarded a contract to Cashman Dredging and Marine Contracting to conduct the majority of the remaining Superfund dredging in the Lower Harbor.
- The amount of the winning bid was approximately \$14,915,000. Approximately 130,000 to 170,000 cubic yards of dredge materials exceeding the lower harbor Superfund cleanup level of 50 ppm will be removed and placed in the Lower Harbor CAD Cell. Work under the new contract is expected to begin in August 2017 and conclude during the first half of 2018. Approximately 120,000 cubic yards of Superfund material was placed in the Lower Harbor CAD Cell in 2016 and early 2017, under a previous contract.

### Marsh Island Shoreline Remediation

- Remediation of certain PCB-contaminated areas along the northern and north-western shoreline of the Marsh Island peninsula will begin in late summer/fall of 2017. Approximately 1,800 cy of contaminated shoreline sediment will be removed and disposed at an approved offsite landfill, after being stabilized with Portland cement at EPA's Sawyer Street facility. The impacted shoreline areas will be backfilled with clean sand and topsoil, and will be restored with native saltmarsh plantings. This work should be completed in approximately three months.

### Archaeological Study

- The Public Archeology Lab (PAL) completed a technical report presenting the findings of the subsurface, primarily land-based archaeological investigations for the New Bedford Harbor Site. The Areas of Potential Effect, which were the focus of the investigation, included areas that will be undergoing soil remediation as well as the access roads and material laydown areas needed for construction in the intertidal zone in Acushnet and Fairhaven. The report was presented to tribal and state historic preservation officers, and, other interested stakeholders on July 12, 2017.
- Shipwreck timber recovery: During 2016 cleanup operations, the remains of a potential shipwreck were discovered in the Upper Harbor. After extensive planning and detailed

preparation of a work plan, the recovery of the shipwreck timbers concluded on Thursday 7/13/17.

- Materials collected during the shipwreck recovery included items preliminarily identified as: portions of the keel, the stern knee, a heavy plank-like timber that may be the keelson, 10 frames/frame fragments, 8 hull plank fragments, 9 thin, wood hull-sheathing plank fragments with caulking material, 16 stones that may represent ballast, some small pieces of wood that may be barrel staves, and a single red brick fragment.
- Several of the timbers showed evidence of burning; however, the absence of artifacts associated with the wreck suggests this vessel, like NBHSS Shipwreck #1 (discovered in 2009), was scuttled at the end of its career, rather than burned in the 1778 surprise raid and razing of New Bedford during the American Revolution.
- A post-recovery survey of the area will be conducted to confirm that all of the shipwreck pieces were removed, should more materials be discovered they will add to the collection of recovered shipwreck materials.
- The recovered ship's timbers have been kept wet to preserve construction details in their surfaces. They will be analyzed for clues regarding the age of the ship, where the timber came from in the ship's hull and the different types of wood that were used in its construction, which could indicate whether the ship was built locally or outside of New England.
- Each timber will be photographed and documented in detail in scale plan and profile drawings. These drawings will be converted into 3-D digital "objects" that can then be manipulated using specialized software to create a computerized "reconstruction" of the shipwreck that assists in determining the type and purpose of the vessel.

#### Parker Street Waste Site Update:

- Administrative Cost Recovery Settlement with the City of New Bedford:
  - The EPA cleanup of the Parker Street Waste Site was completed in the fall of 2012. During the course of EPA's response action, EPA sampled 88 parcels and cleaned up 44 residential homes, incurring a total of \$18 million in Site response costs. EPA alleged that the City of New Bedford originally owned and operated the dump. EPA and the City have executed a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) administrative cost recovery settlement agreement regarding costs EPA incurred for the time-critical removal action responding to the Parker Street Waste Site. The City has agreed to pay EPA \$1.6 million thirty days after the Agreement becomes effective. The agreement is subject to a thirty-day public comment period, which closes on August 21, 2017. For more information, please see the Federal Register notice regarding the Settlement here:  
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/07/21/2017-15378/proposed-cercla-administrative-cost-recovery-settlement-parker-street-waste-site-new-bedford>

