

UPDATE: New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site Activities - September 2017

Lower Harbor:

- Work under the new \$14.9 million contract with Cashman Dredging and Marine Contracting began in September 2017 and is expected to conclude during the first half of 2018. 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. Most of the material underlies the state channel on the New Bedford side of the Harbor.
- 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.
- The hours of operation will be unrestricted, Monday-Saturday. Disposal of material in the Lower Harbor CAD Cell is only allowed 6am-10pm. Maintenance will be allowed on Sundays.

Marsh Island Cleanup:

- Remediation of certain PCB-contaminated areas along the northern and north-western shoreline of the Marsh Island peninsula began in August 2017. Approximately 1,800 cy of contaminated shoreline sediment was removed and disposed of 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, then restored with native saltmarsh plantings. This work should be completed in October 2017.

Upper Harbor Cleanup:

- Remediation of subtidal contamination in the Upper Harbor resumes in October 2017. About 50,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from the "Cable Crossing" area of the Upper Harbor is expected to be removed between the fall and early winter of 2018.
- Dredging equipment operating in the Upper Harbor is all new, state of the art equipment designed to achieve high levels of precision in sediment removal.
- Sediment is removed from the cable crossing area with a mechanical bucket, transported to EPA's de-sanding facility on Sawyer Street by a floating pipeline, and finally to EPA's dewatering facility at Hervey Tichon Boulevard by a floating/submerged pipeline. At the dewatering facility, the sediment is treated until it is a relatively dry sludge "cake". The sludge 'cake' is loaded at the onto trains for the trip to a PCB landfill in Michigan.



Caption for photo below: Sediment dredged from the Lower Harbor is loaded aboard a split hull scow for transport and placement in the Lower Harbor CAD Cell. September 2017



Newly cleaned shoreline at Marsh Island before backfilling and replanting of vegetation, looking towards New Bedford across the Harbor. September 2017.