

NPL Site Narrative for New Bedford Site

NEW BEDFORD SITE New Bedford, Massachusetts

Conditions at listing (July 1982): PCBs were used by two manufacturers of electrical capacitors located in New Bedford, Massachusetts, over several decades until the late 1970s. As a result of poor disposal practices, PCB contamination in the New Bedford area is widespread. The harbor is contaminated at least 6 miles from the upper Acushnet River to Buzzards Bay. Ambient air, surface water, ground water, soils, sediments, and the food chain are contaminated, as well as industrial plant sites. Sullivan's Ledge and the New Bedford Municipal Landfill, which contains an estimated 500,000 pounds of PCB waste, are also contaminated.

In May 1982, EPA entered into Consent Agreements with two companies to address the PCB problem on their properties.

This is the top priority site in Massachusetts.

Status (July 1983): EPA recently completed a Remedial Action Master Plan outlining the investigations needed to determine the full extent of cleanup required at the site. The next step, a remedial investigation/feasibility study to determine the type and extent of contamination at the site and identify alternatives for remedial action, is scheduled to begin in the summer of 1983.

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. ATSDR ToxFAQs can be found on the Internet at [ATSDR - ToxFAQs](http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp) (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/index.asp>) or by telephone at 1-888-42-ATSDR or 1-888-422-8737.