

USEPA New England Region, Office of Site Remediation and Restoration

Memorandum



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From: David Dickerson, Co Remedial Project Manager  
New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site

To: File

Subj: Use of Sawyer Street Cell #1 for ROD 2 implementation

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This memo summarizes the chronological use of cell #1 at EPA's Sawyer Street facility in New Bedford, MA during implementation of the 1998 ROD (ROD 2) for the Superfund harbor cleanup. Cell #1 was initially constructed as part of the hot spot remedy, and hot spot sediments were temporarily stored in it from April 1994 to May 2000. The cell's original HDPE (high density polyethylene) double bottom liner was replaced with a new 60 mil (0.06 inch) single HDPE liner once the hot spot sediments had been removed. Beginning in August 2000, cell #1 was then used to assist in the implementation of ROD 2 by allowing for temporary storage of contaminated sediments from a variety of upper and lower harbor projects, as detailed below.

1. Pre-Design Field Test (PDFT)

The PDFT was a dredging pilot test performed in the upper harbor in August 2000 to assist in the design for ROD 2. Approximately 2,308 cubic yards (cy) of dredged sediments were placed into cell #1 as part of the PDFT. Average PCB levels in the top foot of sediment in the PDFT area were reported to be 857 parts per million (ppm).

REFERENCE: Final Pre-design Field Test Dredge Technology Evaluation Report, New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site, New Bedford, Massachusetts. August 2001. Tetra Tech FW, Inc. Available at [www.epa.gov/ne/nbh](http://www.epa.gov/ne/nbh).

2. North of Wood Street Remediation (NWS)

The NWS project was an accelerated remediation and restoration of the Acushnet River and shoreline soils from approximately 1,600 feet north of the Wood Street bridge to approximately 250 feet south of the bridge from November 2002 to June 2003. Approximately 15,619 cy of contaminated sediments and soil were removed in total during this remediation, approximately 2,500 cy of which consisted of vegetated wetland soils which were disposed offsite. The remaining volume of approximately 13,119 cy of NWS sediment and soil were

placed into cell #1. PCB levels in the NWS area ranged from non-detect to approximately 46,000 ppm prior to remediation.

REFERENCE: After Action Report for North of Wood Street Remediation, New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site, Operable Unit #1, New Bedford, Massachusetts. April 2005. Tetra Tech FW, Inc. Available at [www.gov/ne/nbh](http://www.gov/ne/nbh).

### 3. North Lobe Dredging (NLD)

The NLD project was a mechanical dredging effort in the lower harbor in fall 2003 to assist in the relocation of a water-dependant business formerly located at Hervey Tichon Avenue. Approximately 3,952 cy of dredged sediments were placed into cell #1 as part of the NLD. PCB levels in the area dredged ranged from approximately 50 to 300 ppm.

REFERENCE: Final After Action Report for North Lobe Dredging, New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site, Operable Unit No. 1, New Bedford, Massachusetts. May 2005. Tetra Tech FW, Inc. Available at [www.epa.gov/ne/nbh](http://www.epa.gov/ne/nbh).

### 4. Separated Sand, Gravel, Shells, etc. from the Desanding Facility

Coarse-grained material removed from the Sawyer Street desanding facility as part of the 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 dredge seasons was placed into cell #1. The amount of material generated from the desanding facility during these years ranged from approximately 2,795 to 3,591 tons per year. PCB levels in this material ranged from approximately 3 to 1,240 ppm.

REFERENCES (all available at [www.epa.gov/ne/nbh](http://www.epa.gov/ne/nbh)):

2005 After Action Report, New Bedford Harbor Remedial Action, New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site, New Bedford, MA. August 2006. Jacobs Engineering Group.

2006 Dredge Season Data Submittal, New Bedford Harbor Remedial Action, New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site, New Bedford, MA. January 2007. Jacobs Engineering Group.

2007 Dredge Season Data Submittal, New Bedford Harbor Remedial Action, New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site, New Bedford, MA. January 2008. Jacobs Engineering Group.

2008 Dredge Season Data Submittal, New Bedford Harbor Remedial Action, New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site, New Bedford, MA. May 2009. Jacobs Engineering Group.

### 5. Aerovox Shoreline Sediments

Approximately 6,900 cy of highly contaminated sediments in the vicinity of the vacant Aerovox facility were mechanically removed in June and July 2008 and placed into cell #1, after being first stabilized with Portland cement. Testing of the removed sediments showed PCB levels ranging from 234 to 11,200 ppm (Arochlor basis), with an average of 2,660 ppm. These sediments also contained high levels of certain solvents, especially trichloroethene (TCE).

REFERENCE: 2008 Dredge Season Data Submittal, New Bedford Harbor Remedial Action, New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site, New Bedford, MA. May 2009. Jacobs Engineering Group. Available at [www.epa.gov/ne/nbh](http://www.epa.gov/ne/nbh).

6. Some Cell#1 Material Removed During 2004 Dredge Season

During the 2004 dredge season, approximately 1,563 cy of ROD 2 dredged material existing in cell #1 at that time (see above) was removed using hydraulic dredging. Large amounts of rocks, bricks, and debris inhibited the dredging effort from removing more material from the cell.

REFERENCE: After-Action Report 2004 New Bedford Harbor Remedial Action, New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site, New Bedford, MA. November 2005. Jacobs Engineering Group. Available at [www.epa.gov/nbh](http://www.epa.gov/nbh).