The 1998 OU1 ROD also included, at the request of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a State Enhanced Remedy (SER) pursuant to 40 CFR 300.515(f) for the removal of navigational sediments not otherwise covered by the ROD. This portion of the remedy is funded and managed by the Commonwealth in conjunction with the City of New Bedford, with oversight by EPA. It serves to increase the remedy's protectiveness since PCB-contaminated sediments not covered by the OU1 ROD will be removed and disposed as part of the port's navigational dredging program. As discussed below in section 4.2.4, the SER also provided clean underwater cap material for contaminated sediments near the Cornell-Dubilier mill.

In September 2001, EPA issued a change to the 1998 harbor cleanup plan using a process known as an Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD). This ESD addresses the following five remedial issues: 1) additional intertidal areas in the upper harbor requiring cleanup to address dermal contact risks, 2) mechanical dewatering of dredged sediments, 3) use of the pilot study CDF at Sawyer Street, 4) change in the CDF D wall design (CDF D was the largest of the four CDFs included in the 1998 OU1 ROD) and 5) use of rail at CDF D.

In August 2002 EPA issued a second ESD for the 1998 OU1 ROD. This ESD eliminates CDF D, and instead selects offsite landfilling for the dredged and dewatered sediments slated for it. ESDs as well as other site information is available for review at the New Bedford Free Public Library (reference section) and at EPA's Boston records center. Both ESDs are also available online at the New Bedford Harbor web site (www.epa.gov/ne/nbh) under "Technical Documents."

4.2 Operable Unit 1 Remedy Implementation

4.2.1 Early Cleanup Activities

The first remedial action taken after issuance of the 1998 OU1 ROD was to erect fencing in 1999 along the New Bedford shoreline in residential and public access areas where new sediment sampling showed very high levels of shoreline PCBs. Additional "no fishing" signs were also added throughout the site. This was followed in 1999 and 2000 by the "Early Action" cleanup which excavated approximately 2,500 cy of highly contaminated residential shoreline areas in Acushnet followed by restoration of the impacted shoreline.

These early action cleanups were followed by the accelerated cleanup of the entire six acre intertidal and subtidal area north of Wood Street. This North of Wood Street cleanup was completed in March 2003, with additional saltmarsh and upland plantings completed in June 2003 (TTFW, 2005a). EPA prioritized this effort due to the very high PCB levels along the shoreline in this area (up to 46,000 ppm), along with the fact that two parks and many residences abut the shoreline in this river stretch. Two temporary dams were built to dewater this stretch of the river, to allow 15,600 cy of contaminated sediments to be excavated in near-dry conditions.

4.2.2 Preparation For Full Scale Dredging

In addition to accelerated cleanups in the northern-most part of the site, numerous advance projects and business relocations had to be completed to prepare for full scale dredging (see Table 1.b). Construction of a clean corridor to relocate thirteen submerged high voltage power cables was

outcome of the businesses hanging Fish Smart Campaign posters and making the Fish Smart multi-language brochure available to their customers. Fish Smart promotional material also appears annually in the Standard Times Seaside Edition which reaches approximately 40,000 subscribers.

In addition, easy to understand multi-language signs are posted along the shore in popular fishing locations warning about the dangers of consuming PCB-contaminated seafood.

Discussions are also underway with the South East Transit Authority to outfit all of the buses and the New Bedford bus station with Fish Smart Campaign posters. EPA will also seek permission to hang Fish Smart Campaign posters in all of the community centers, homeless centers, and public housing complexes.

4.2.7 Summary of Sediment Areas Remediated to Date

Table 2 - Summary of Sediment Areas Remediated to Date

Project	Date	Sediment volume remediated (cy)
1. First pilot study	1988/89	2900
2. Hot spot dredging	1994/95	14000
3. Early action	2000	2500
4. Pre-design field test (PDFT)	2000	2300
5. North of Wood Street	2002/03	15600
6. North Lobe Dredging	2003	4100
7. Full scale dredging - season 1	2004	14000
8. Full scale dredging - season 2	2005	25,000 (forecasted)
9. Pilot underwater cap	2005	25,000 cy (dredging amount avoided)
10. Total remediated volume	1988-2005	105400

In addition, it should be noted that an additional approximately 13,000 cy of sediments were dredged in 2004/05 as part of the commercial barge business relocation discussed above in section 4.2.2. This relocation was required due to construction of the dewatering facility, and the related dredging was for navigation not PCB removal. In fact, the North Lobe Dredging project (item #6 in the table above) was performed to remove those sediments above the lower harbor cleanup level of 50 ppm prior to construction of the new commercial barge pier and channel.

Five-Year Review Report

First Five-Year Review Report
for the

New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site

Bristol County, Massachusetts

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EPA
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Date:

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