

New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site

**Fairhaven Board of Selectmen
September 29, 2014**

History - New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site

- ▣ Former Aerovox Facility, located in Upper Harbor-New Bedford shoreline, discharged large amounts of polychlorinated biphenyls (or 'PCBs') from 1940s to 1970s causing widespread contamination.
- ▣ Designated as Superfund Site in 1983.
- ▣ 1998 "Record of Decision" or cleanup plan was modified by 4 subsequent documents called "ESDs".
- ▣ EPA's 2013 settlement with AVX Corporation will support expedited cleanup of the harbor – the cleanup will be mostly complete within 5-7 years.

EPA Cleanup Plan for Contaminated Sediment



**Decision Process, including Public
Notification/Public Meetings**

**1998- EPA Record of Decision
(including State Enhanced Remedy)**



2001-ESD 1

2002-ESD2

2010-ESD3

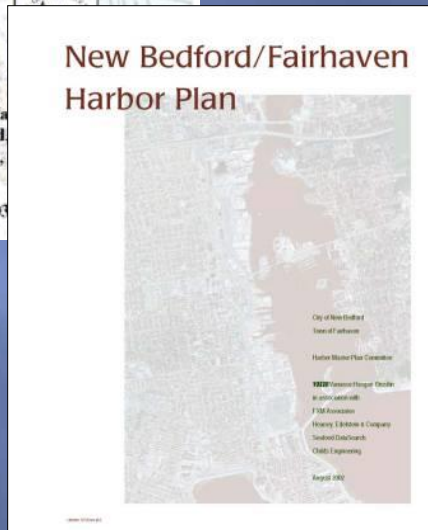
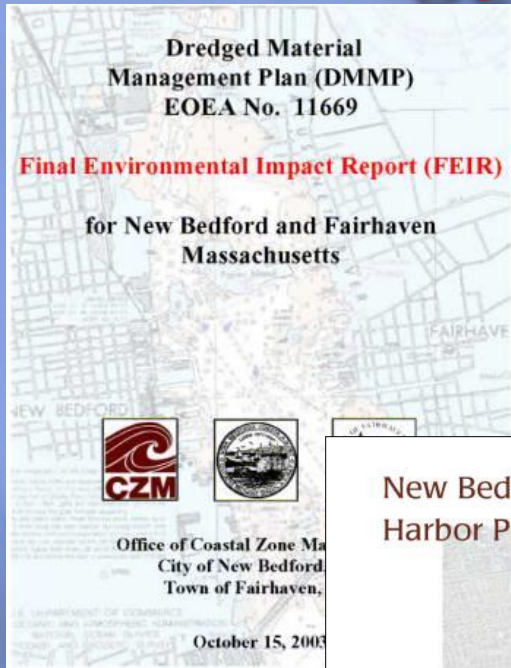
2011-ESD4

**After extensive public involvement, EPA
selected and subsequently modified cleanup
plan for the Harbor**

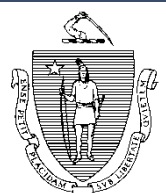
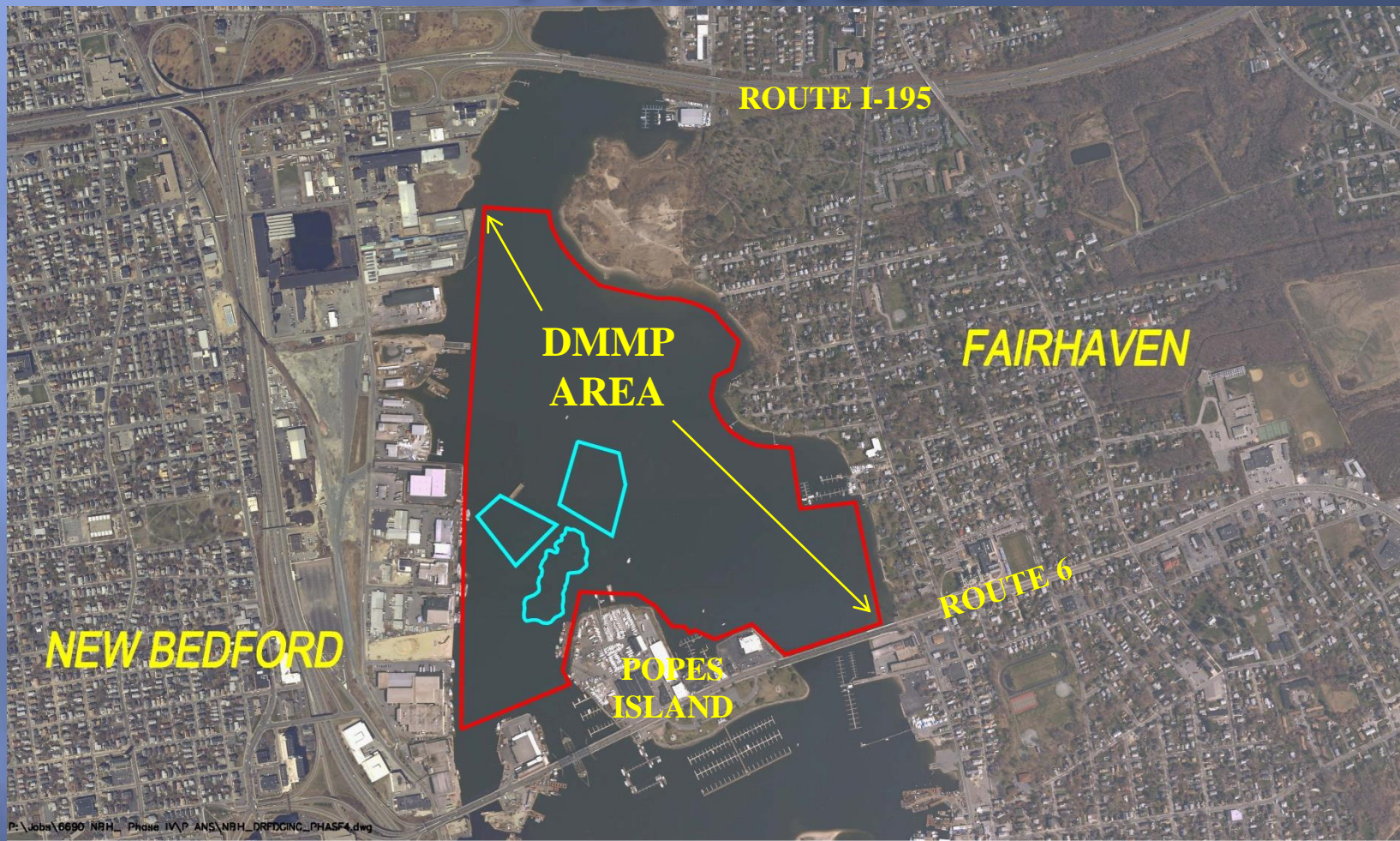
Massachusetts State Process to Address Unsuitable Navigational Sediment in Designated Port Areas (NBH)

Public Notification/Public Meetings

Process Began in 1998
2002 – Draft EIR & New Bedford/Fairhaven Harbor Plan
2003 – Final EIR Dredged Material Management Plan
2005 – Project Change to DMMP
2008 – Project Change to DMMP
2010 – Updated New Bedford/Fairhaven Harbor Plan



Dredged Material Management Plan Area



Lower Harbor CAD Cell

Public Process To Determine How/Where to Handle Contaminated Sediment

Public Notification/Public Meetings

2011 CAD Cell Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD #4)

- Dredging (primarily) of lower harbor
- Disposal in CAD cell in State Approved DMMP selected area north of Pope's Island



Lower Harbor CAD Cell Project

- ▣ Dredge 300,000 cubic yards of PCB contaminated sediment (mostly) from Lower Harbor;
- ▣ Contaminated at levels between 50 ppm and 190 ppm;
- ▣ Disposal in Confined Aquatic Disposal Cell (CAD) in Lower Harbor, allowed to consolidate.
- ▣ Three foot thick sand cap to cover consolidated material.

Confined Aquatic Disposal (CADs)

- ▣ Can be safely implemented and will permanently contain contamination:
 - Modelling showed CADs could be implemented safely
 - Monitoring of air and water quality during implementation confirm the modelling results
- ▣ Can be implemented more quickly than conventional dredging
- ▣ Cost effective

Schedule

- ▣ Lower Harbor CAD Cell, Phase I was completed July 2014
- ▣ Lower Harbor CAD Cell, Phase II beginning Fall 2014