



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1

1 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

March 30, 2005

Mayor Frederick M. Kalisz, Jr.
City of New Bedford
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Dear Mayor Kalisz:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency remains committed to working closely with the MA Department of Environmental Protection and the City of New Bedford to ensure that the Keith Middle School Project is conducted in a manner protective of human health and the environment.

EPA is confident a viable cleanup plan can be developed to address contamination at the site. As you know, many New England municipalities have successfully reclaimed brownfields sites for a wide range of redevelopment projects including municipal parks, sports and entertainment facilities, schools and municipal buildings, housing and economic development. Enclosed is a brochure which provides examples of these types of projects in New England.

We understand the City has been complying with the Workplan (revised 10/25/04) developed with EPA and the public participation required by the MA Contingency Plan.

To receive EPA's approval for construction, the City of New Bedford has submitted a risk-based cleanup application, which includes:

- Site contaminants information;
- Proposed cleanup plan;
- Risk assessment; and
- Long-term monitoring and maintenance plan.

EPA staff have begun evaluating the cleanup application and we will reach a decision after all issues have been carefully considered. In addition, EPA will solicit public comment on the cleanup proposal before making a final determination.

Cleaning up sites with contamination is a challenging process which requires patience, commitment and the ability to adapt to new information and changing conditions. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that public health and the environment are protected as you complete this important project.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Varney
Regional Administrator