

Aerovox Site

April 2008



What's Been Going on at the Vacant Aerovox Plant?

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EPA Pursuing Off-Site Disposal for Building Demolition Debris

In response to public comments on EPA's 2006 cleanup plan for the Aerovox facility, EPA has been working closely with the project stakeholders to coordinate a cleanup approach that uses off site instead of on site disposal for building demolition debris. This re-evaluation and coordination has taken some time and EPA hopes to have site preparation activities beginning within a year. In the meantime, monitoring continues to ensure the building's safety and to ensure that the fire suppression system remains functional. Since the last update, considerable progress has been made in gathering additional site information that will contribute to a safe and cost effective building demolition. EPA will continue to keep stakeholders and nearby communities informed and involved as the status changes.



Mercury Waste Removed

During this past winter, approximately 200 pounds of elemental mercury from electrical devices, controls or spills on the floor was removed from the facility for recycling or off site disposal.



Additional Site Progress

- **178 samples** were taken from equipment and building material to explore what demolition debris might be recycled.
- **Ground penetrating radar** was used to help EPA identify utility pipes and lines that will require protection once demolition is underway.
- Building **demolition specialists** have been **consulted** to ensure that the future deconstruction plan is safe and protective.
- Annual **groundwater monitoring** continues to be performed.

Aerovox Shoreline Cleanup planned for Spring 2008

As part of the New Bedford Harbor cleanup, this May and June EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers will be cleaning up contaminated sediment along the Aerovox mill shoreline. The area of sediment to be removed is approximately 100 feet in width and is known to contain PCBs and solvents. Temporary docks will be built to allow excavating equipment to access the area. The excavated sediment will be placed into water tight containers and, while working inside a temporary structure, cement will be used to stabilize and harden the sediment. The stabilized sediment will then be transported by sealed trucks to EPA's sediment storage facility at the end of Sawyer Street.



What Will This Shoreline Cleanup Look Like?

The precautions you will see are extensive safety measures taken for the protection of the workers in the immediate vicinity of the excavation. Because of their very close proximity to, and potential for direct contact with the PCB- and solvent-contaminated sediment, cleanup personnel will be wearing protective clothing and using supplied air tanks. Because of the short duration of the effort, the nature of the contaminants and the fact that stabilization will take place within an enclosed structure, EPA does not anticipate impacts to the air quality in the surrounding communities. However, as a precaution, air monitors will be placed near the closest abutters as well as in the immediate work zone to ensure that the project is being performed safely and that it is not impacting nearby neighborhoods.

To protect the health of you and your family, please respect work crews and signs by staying away from the immediate work zone during this shoreline cleanup.

For More Information Contact:

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Additional Information

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and Solvents @ www.epa.gov/iaq/voc.html

The New Bedford Harbor and Aerovox Superfund Sites @ www.epa.gov/ne/nbh