restrictions by providing information about updated risks from consumption of locally caught seafood to targeted groups including nursing mothers, women of child-bearing age, the medical community, recreational sportfishermen and recreational shellfishermen. Despite these efforts, consumption of local PCB-contaminated seafood will likely continue. EPA will continue to explore additional approaches to keep local seafood consumption within identified risk levels.

Ecological risks will also continue until after site remediation is completed (approximately 10 years after the completion of contaminated sediment removal based on a 1990 computer model, Battelle 1990). Current water column PCB levels are greater than ten times the National Recommended Water Quality Criteria (NRWQC) of 0.03 ppb which is based on a Final Residue Value protective of the marine food chain for the protection of aquatic receptors.

In addition to the seafood pathway, EPA has focused on minimizing dermal contact risks from PCB-contaminated shoreline areas. Accelerated cleanups were performed in 1999, 2002 and 2005 to remediate the highest priority residential and public access areas at the site along the Acushnet River north of the Wood Street bridge. Despite this progress, the large scale of the site and the long remedial time frame result in areas remaining that have potential dermal contact risks. To control these risks until full remediation occurs, EPA will continue to use shoreline fencing and signage as appropriate and will continue to investigate additional measures that may be taken to supplement the existing institutional controls.

Along with evaluating the protectiveness of the remedy, this Five-Year Review presents potential issues and recommendations. Many, but not all, of the issues presented in the last Five-Year Review remain the same, but significant progress has been made. This progress includes, among others things, removal of highly contaminated shoreline sediments abutting the Aerovox facility, obtaining ARRA funds to accelerate the removal of the most highly contaminated remaining sediments, and proposing the use of a lower harbor CAD cell in the 4th ESD to shorten the remedial timeframe. This Five-Year Review presents a summary of this work and provides recommendations to continue to improve the remedial progress at the Site.

The Protectiveness Statement outlined in this Report is as follows:

OU1

The remedy for OU1 is expected to be protective of human health and the environment upon completion, and in the interim, exposure pathways that could result in unacceptable risks have been, or are in the process of, being controlled to the maximum extent practicable.

OU2

The remedy for OU2 currently protects human health and the environment because the sediment dredged from the upper harbor as part of the OU2 hot spot remedy has been safely transported to an off-site TSCA landfill. However, in order for the remedy to be protective in the long-term, this geographical area will also be addressed under OU1. All future work, including institutional controls, for this area will be a part of OU1.

OU3

A remedy has not been selected for OU3, thus a protectiveness statement for it can not be made at this time.

Five-Year Review Report

Second Five-Year Review Report for the

New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site

Bristol County, Massachusetts

September 2010

Prepared by the
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 1, New England
Boston, Massachusetts