Actual or threatened releases of hazardous substances from this site, if not addressed by implementing the response action selected in this ROD, may present a threat to public health, welfare, or the environment.

2.8 REMEDIATION OBJECTIVES

For the purposes of developing remedial action objectives (RAO), the coastal area adjacent to the McAllister Point Landfill was divided into three sections. These sections are shown in Figure 3.

Nearshore area: The nearshore area is the coastal area adjacent to McAllister Point Landfill that lies between the landfill revetment and the -3 foot mean low water line (water depth = 3 ft at MLW) and any additional areas outside the -3 ft MLW line that contain landfill materials beneath the surface. This area had among the highest risks identified at the site. Sediments in this area pose potential unacceptable risks to humans and ecological receptors. Landfill debris is believed to be present beneath the surface of the sediments in this area.

Elevated-risk offshore area: The elevated-risk offshore area is the subtidal area south of the landfill that includes sample stations MCL-12, S2B, S2C, and OS-28 (see also Figure 3). This area had some of the highest observed contaminant concentrations detected in the study area. Sediments in this area pose potential unacceptable risks to humans and ecological receptors.

Offshore area: The offshore area is the remaining subtidal area within the study area. No human health risks are expected in this area because the depth of water makes the area inaccessible for direct contact exposures or for shellfishing. Sediments in this area pose lower risks to ecological receptors than sediments in the other areas of the site.

Because the risks associated with the nearshore and the elevated-risk offshore sediments are similar, the areas are adjacent to one another, and likely remedies would be similar, these areas were considered together in developing of RAOs, and developing and evaluating remedial alternatives.

Nearshore and Elevated-Risk Offshore Sediment RAOs

In accordance with CERCLA, the RAOs developed for these areas address unacceptable COC-related risks to humans identified in the HHRA, and potential risks to aquatic organisms and avian predators identified in the marine ERA. The RAOs identified for the nearshore and elevated-risk offshore areas are presented below.

The RAO for the protection of human health:

- Prevent human ingestion of shellfish impacted by sediments with COC concentrations exceeding the selected Preliminary Remedial Goals (PRGs).

RAOs for the protection of the environment and ecological receptors:

- Prevent exposure of aquatic organisms to sediments with COC concentrations exceeding the selected PRGs.
- Prevent avian predator ingestion of shellfish impacted by sediments with COC concentrations exceeding the selected PRGs.
- Minimize migration of sediments with COC concentrations exceeding the selected PRGs to offshore areas and previously unaffected areas of Narragansett Bay.
- Prevent washout of landfill debris into the marine environment.

Offshore Sediment RAOs

The RAOs for the offshore area address the COC-related risks identified in the marine ERA. As discussed previously, the marine ERA identified potential risks to aquatic organisms associated with contaminated sediment in the offshore areas. No risks to avian predators were identified. Risks to humans are not anticipated because the depth of water makes the area inaccessible for direct contact exposures or shellfishing. RAOs identified for the offshore area are presented below.

RAOs for the protection of the environment and ecological receptors:

- Prevent exposure of aquatic organisms to sediments with COC concentrations exceeding the selected PRGs.
- Minimize migration of sediments with COC concentrations exceeding the selected PRGs to previously unaffected areas of Narragansett Bay.

Remedial alternatives that satisfy these RAOs will minimize or eliminate the human and ecological risks identified by the various risk assessments for the site.

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