UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 1
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109-3912

October 13, 2016

Mark Rees, Town Administrator
Town of Fairhaven
40 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

William Roth, Director
Planning and Economic Development
Town of Fairhaven
40 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Re: New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site
Transmittal of PCB Data for Property in Fairhaven at
Oxford Street Right of Way

Dear Mr. Rees, Mr. Roth:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the results from the sediment and/or soil samples that were collected and analyzed for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from your property by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2016. Your property lies within or abuts New Bedford Harbor, which is a federal Superfund Site.

The sampling and analysis was conducted by Battelle, under contract to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), on behalf of the EPA. EPA and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) are working with the ACOE to delineate the nature and extent of PCB contamination within the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site. The primary source of PCB contamination within the Harbor is the former Aerovox facility, located on Belleville Avenue in New Bedford.

EPA's cleanup plan for the Site is described in a Record of Decision for the Upper and Lower Harbor issued in 1998, as modified ("ROD") (available at http://www3.epa.gov/region1/superfund/sites/newbedford/38206.pdf). Specific cleanup levels, described below, were set for shoreline cleanup of intertidal sediment and saltmarsh areas between the high and low tide water levels and to the first twelve inches of sediment depth.

Sampling Protocols:

In 2016, you granted EPA access to Town property in Fairhaven at the Oxford Street Right of Way. Battelle completed the sampling on your property in July 2016.

The sediment samples were analyzed for total PCBs at the Battelle laboratory using congener analysis. Congener analysis is a laboratory method that provides analytical results for 139 of the PCB congeners and these are totaled for reporting the PCB data (the target 139 congeners represent over 95% of the total PCBs in the environment).

Sample locations were focused in the intertidal area, between the mean-high-water (MHW) line and mean-lower-low-water (MLLW) line, where PCB-contaminated sediments of the Site are expected to be present potentially above applicable cleanup levels. Intertidal areas can become contaminated from PCBs in subtidal river sediment during the twice-a-day tidal cycles. In addition, some other low-lying areas above the MHW line may have been exposed to PCBs from subtidal sediment during periods of storms or floods.

Sampling Results for Your Property:

A figure and table of the 2016 PCB data is enclosed. For your reference, the figure shows the MHW and MLLW lines, lot boundary information available through MassGIS and/or Town parcel maps.

It is EPA's understanding that the current use of your property is as a public way. As such, the appropriate TCL (target cleanup level) stated in the Record of Decision for the Town's right-of-way property is 25 mg/kg, because this is an area where beachcombing may occur.

Based on the current use of the Town property as a public way and considering the enclosed data, PCB sampling results for your property do not exceed the 25 mg/kg cleanup level for your property. As you can see, PCB levels of 0.507 and 1.11 mg/kg were identified through the 2016 sampling effort in the top foot of sediment in areas below the MHW line on your property adjacent to the Acushnet River.

As noted above, the former Aerovox property was the primary source of PCB contamination to the river, and the PCB contamination gradient in the sediment ranges from the highest levels in the northern end of the Site, decreasing from north to south as you move away from the former Aerovox facility.

Please note that EPA's sampling on your property was limited to PCBs, which is the primary contaminant being addressed by EPA's harbor cleanup. There may be other pollutants or contaminants present at your property that are not Site-related that may be regulated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Cleanup Levels:

Pursuant to the Site ROD (available at http://www3.epa.gov/region1/superfund/sites/newbedford/38206.pdf), for the intertidal/shoreline areas, the cleanup levels, to reduce risk from human contact with contaminated sediment, are the following:

- 1 mg/kg (or parts per million or "ppm") PCBs for areas bordering residential areas;
- 25 mg/kg (or ppm) PCBs for shoreline areas where beachcombing may occur; and
- 50 mg/kg (or ppm) PCBs for other shoreline areas with little or no public access and for saltmarshes. The Upper Harbor contains large fragile saltmarsh habitats which include ecologically important breeding, nursery, and feeding areas for aquatic life. EPA selected a 50 ppm PCBs cleanup level for saltmarshes with limited expected access to minimize adverse impacts to these marshes while still protecting against dermal contact/incidental ingestion risks to the occasional beachcomber.

Risks:

The human health risks at the Site are posed by ingestion of PCB-contaminated seafood, and dermal (skin) contact or incidental ingestion of PCB-contaminated sediment. A copy of EPA's seafood consumption advisories for the Site can be found at http://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/583506.pdf.

As described in the ROD for the Site, the risks posed by exposure to PCB-contaminated sediment depends on the degree of exposure. The enclosed intertidal PCB sampling data are evaluated against the cleanup levels related to dermal contact and incidental ingestion risk. For additional detail on the basis for the intertidal/shoreline cleanup levels, see Appendix B of the ROD, available at http://www3.epa.gov/region1/superfund/sites/newbedford/38206.pdf] and Appendix D of the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site 2015 Five-Year Review, available at http://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/583507.pdf.

Ambient air PCB levels do not represent an unacceptable risk at the Site. EPA monitors ambient air pursuant to our ambient air monitoring plan available at http://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-08/documents/577154.pdf. Ambient air monitoring performed since prior to the initiation of EPA's dredging show that PCB levels in ambient air are well below levels of concern for chronic risks.

Contact Information:

Representatives from EPA and MassDEP are available to meet with you to help explain the data enclosed with this letter. Please feel free to contact me at (617) 918-1325 or Kelsey O'Neil, the Site Community Involvement Coordinator, at (617) 918-1003 with any questions. If you have any legal questions, you or your counsel may contact Maximilian Boal at (617) 918-1750. For additional information, EPA has a webpage dedicated to the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site at http://www.epa.gov/new-

bedford-harbor. Thank you very much for your cooperation related to this investigation and for your time.

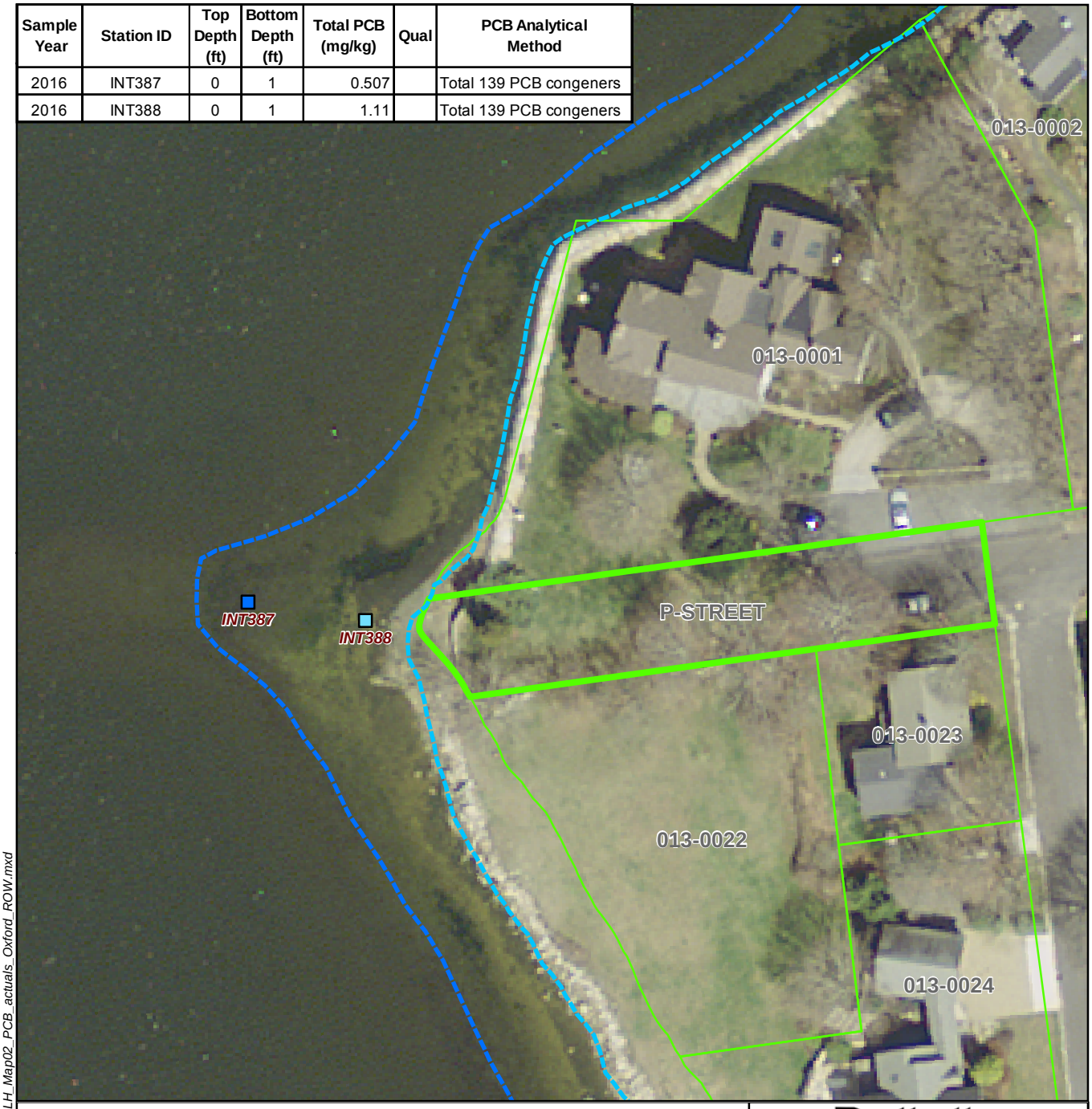
Sincerely,

David Lederer, Remedial Project Manager
New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site
Office of Site Restoration and Remediation
EPA Region 1

Enclosures

cc: Joseph Coyne, MassDEP

Sample Year	Station ID	Top Depth (ft)	Bottom Depth (ft)	Total PCB (mg/kg)	Qual	PCB Analytical Method
2016	INT387	0	1	0.507		Total 139 PCB congeners
2016	INT388	0	1	1.11		Total 139 PCB congeners



Legend

- MHW
- MLLW
- Lot Boundaries
- Oxford Avenue ROW Boundary

TOTAL PCB (mg/kg)
(Top 1 foot)

sum of 139 congeners (2016)	PCB Immunoassay (2016)	sum of 18 NOAA congeners X correction factor (1999-2001)
≤1		
>1 - 10		
>10 - 25		
>25 - 50		
>50 - 100		
>100 - 1,000		
>1,000		

Feet
0 25 50

Battelle
The Business of Innovation

Oxford Avenue
Right-of-Way
Intertidal Sample Results

New Bedford Harbor
Superfund Site

DATE: 9/29/2016	ANALYST: HICKSJ
REV. 0	APPROVED: WHITE

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