### New Bedford Harbor Superfund Cleanup

Creating Opportunities Through Partnerships, Creativity & Tenacity



New Bedford is located on Buzzards Bay in Southeastern Massachusetts





#### New Bedford Harbor Inferred PCB Levels - 0 to 12 inch depth May 2001



Yesterday's Economic Engines Created Today's Environmental Challenges



#### In 1990 ROD I is signed

- remedy for the 5 acre hot spot area
- called for dredging and on-site incineration of PCBcontaminated sediments above 4,000 ppm
- lack of leadership from the Mayor's Office
- vehement congressionally-supported opposition
- led to creation of the "Superfund Forum"
- Amended in 1999 to provide for dewatering and off-site landfilling

#### **ROD II - 1998**

• CDFs - Confined Disposal Facilities

 Enough sediment to fill 125 football fields three feet high



#### In 1998 Fred Kalisz became Mayor of New Bedford

- history with the Superfund process as a City Councilor
- willingness to think out of the box
- "positive collateral environmental development" (PCED)
- desire to build partnerships



#### In 2001 New Bedford was chosen as a Brownfields Showcase Community

- created new opportunities for dialogue with EPA
- allowed us a forum and process to pursue out of the box strategies
- encouraged partnerships
- provided an "embedded" federal coordinator



### In 2002 we completed four years of consensus building and planning which incorporated potential reuses for the CDFs



Our planning allowed us to advocate for CDF designs that would accommodate the reuses that benefited our community



CDF D needed to have 1000 psf loading capacity to accommodate marine industrial uses since it was located in the Designated Port Area Through North Terminal 2010 and our Brownfields Plans we were able to push the envelope and leverage other types beneficial uses



Through our Portfields Plans we were able to push the envelope and dredge our harbor which had not been dredged in 30 years



#### Today, through these efforts.....



# Today, through these efforts we also have a strong proactive partnership with the EPA and the ACOE



The building and property were supposed to be remediated per a 1997 TSCA order. But the company subsequently went bankrupt.

# A strong proactive partnership that benefits the community

- EPA/USACE team will prepare the design
- \$8 million cooperative agreement with the city for remedial action
- city to issue two RFPs jointly (to be procured with one contract):
  - remediation RFP
  - redevelopment RFP



#### So what have we learned?

- Cognitive Restructuring
  - Opportunities not Challenges
  - Yes we can !!
- Build Partnerships & Coalitions
- Craft Creative Consensus Based Plans
- Gather a Strong Creative Team
- Seek to Leverage Other Public Investments
- Don't Accept "No" as an Answer

## Thank You !

