

Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Laura Otterbourg
609-777-2600

RELEASE: December 21, 1999

Governor Urges Environmental Protection Agency for Reassurance on Dredged Material

Governor Christie Whitman today is taking action again with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure that any dredging and disposal of material at the Historic Areas Remediation Site (HARS) meets requirements set forth in the 1996 agreement.

In a letter today to Carol Browner, Administrator of the EPA, Gov. Whitman reminded the agency of its responsibilities - not only for the restoration of the HARS and determining the eligibility of materials destined for that site, but also in reassuring the public of its activities.

"Whenever I hear repeated concerns about issues that affect us all, it becomes a matter for me that requires investigation," said Gov. Whitman. "It's disconcerting because I am continuing to hear concerns from elected officials and the public that dredged material proposed for HARS remediation - and the Brooklyn Marine Terminal material which was being sent to the HARS as recently as this past week - may not meet the requirements set forth in the 1996 agreement."

"While the EPA is responsible for determining eligibility of materials destined for that site, the agency needs to assure the public about its actions and calm any fears having to do with the protection of our ocean waters," stressed the Governor. Asking the EPA for immediate attention, Gov. Whitman said that "public support and trust on issues as important as these, are paramount to our success in protecting our marine environment as well as our nation's commerce."

Gov. Whitman also reiterated New Jersey's leadership role in developing and employing beneficial use alternatives for contaminated dredged materials. These technologies are available from the private sector to anyone who requires a disposal action.

Today's appeal involving dredged material from Brooklyn Marine Terminal comes as a follow up to the Governor's October 28th letter to the EPA, which remains unanswered. In that letter, Gov. Whitman urged the EPA to review the pending permit application for dredging

and disposal of material from the Castle Astoria Harbor Terminal in Queens, New York at the HARS.

