Projects that would require waiting for EPA's actions or would be accomplished in the long-term are welcome as well. Submission of these project ideas would assist the Trustees in planning for future actions. The same criteria and evaluation method will be used for these long-term project ideas as well as all other project ideas.

There may be ideas for projects that address emergency restoration which could be accomplished on a much faster basis. Emergency restoration is described in CERCLA as actions taken to avoid an irreversible loss of natural resources or to prevent or reduce any continuing danger to natural resources. If the Trustees determine that such an emergency exists, project funding could occur before the approval of a restoration plan or EIS. The Council will determine the most appropriate means of implementing such an idea, such as through further procurement solicitations.

Project ideas will be accepted by the Council until November 20, 1995. All individuals or groups are invited to participate in this phase of the idea solicitation process. Assistance is available at either Council office (see **ADDRESSES**) if further explanation or guidance is needed on what the Council is requesting, restoration concepts, or the method of submission.

II. Restoration Priorities

From the list of resources identified as having a high probability of injury, and applying what is known about the resources injured within the New Bedford Harbor environment, the following list has been identified as proposed priorities for restoration of injured natural resources. The list includes those areas or resources of the New Bedford Harbor environment that the Trustees have proposed so far as likely candidates for restoration. Through the scoping process and through public input, other restoration priorities may be determined.

1. *Marshes or wetlands*. Projects under this priority could include, but are not limited to, restoration activities including transplanting marsh grasses, enhancing or creating marshes or wetlands.

2. *Recreation areas.* Project areas could include, but are not limited to restoration of beaches and parkland, activities to enhance access such as boat ramps or landings, and shoreline cleanups.

3. *Water column*. Examples of projects that restore the water column to its pre-PCB condition include grit or sediment removal. 4. *Habitats.* Restoration of habitats could include projects to restore or enhance fish and shellfish habitats or submerged aquatic vegetation.

5. *Living resources.* Living resources include the fish species, shellfish species and anadromous fish species that have been injured through the release of hazardous materials. Activities that have been suggested include aquaculture, transplants, bottom culture, and enhancement of other species.

⁶ 6. *Endangered species*. Endangered species include birds such as roseate terns that have been injured by PCBs. Project ideas should attempt to meet these priorities but respondents are not limited to these areas alone. As part of the scoping process, new priorities can be identified and incorporated into the restoration planning process provided that they meet legal requirements, technical feasibility and selection criteria.

III. How to Submit Ideas

This is not a formal solicitation for contracts, rather it is a request for ideas that could eventually lead to an additional solicitation that may result in funding awards or interagency transfer of funds. Depending on the activity involved, the funding award could be a grant, a contract, or, if appropriate, the work could be performed by Federal or state agencies. Please note that the type of submission expected under this solicitation for restoration ideas is significantly different from that for Federal assistance programs.

Respondents should note that once an idea has been submitted, the idea becomes public domain. Both CERCLA and NEPA require public comment before formal adoption of a restoration plan or EIS. This can only be accomplished by revealing to the public the ideas that have been submitted. If the idea is chosen and then a solicitation is conducted for accomplishing that idea, the respondent loses all proprietary privilege to that idea. There remains the possibility that an idea may be implemented, after public review (see IV.B.1 below), through a sole source contract if the idea meets procurement criteria for such an award. Respondents who are concerned about revealing proprietary interests or methods should only present enough information to provide the Council with an understanding of the idea.

A. Eligible Submissions

During this phase, all individuals are eligible to submit ideas and all submissions are welcomed and encouraged. Respondents are asked to evaluate their idea(s) against criteria proposed by the Council. Unless modified through the result of this solicitation or by public comment, the criteria are expected to be used throughout the restoration process.

Assistance from Council employees is available by telephone or through meetings. Assistance will be limited to such issues as the Council's goals, restoration priorities, selection criteria, application procedures, and responding to questions regarding completion of application forms. Assistance will not be provided for conceptualizing, developing or structuring proposals. Information can be obtained at the offices of the Council (see **ADDRESSES**).

B. Duration and Terms of Funding

Under this solicitation, no actual awards of funding will occur. Rather, the solicitation will result in prioritization by the Council, and through public review and comment, of project ideas for a further solicitation. The Council has a fixed amount of money to implement restoration projects. In determining which project ideas to implement, an important consideration is the cost of the project. Estimated cost information allows the Council to develop a spending plan for future years and allows both the public and the Council to determine how many project ideas can actually be funded.

In describing the project idea, respondents should consider whether funding would be needed for a single or multi-year basis. This information will in no way affect consideration of the merits of the proposal but instead will assist the Council in its planning.

Since this is only a solicitation for project ideas, publication of this announcement does not obligate the Council to award any specific grant or contract or to obligate any part or the entire amount of funds available.

C. Costsharing

One way of extending the fixed amount of money the Council has to work with is through costsharing. It is not required that project ideas contain costsharing and this information will not be considered in the technical evaluation of proposals. However, the Council does encourage respondents to think about costsharing, and if it is appropriate for a project idea, to discuss within the idea the degree to which costsharing may be possible. If costsharing is proposed, the respondent is asked to account for both the Council and non-Council amounts. This information will allow the Council to better plan future expenditures.