

Final decision on cleanup at J.H. Baxter wood treatment facility in Eugene



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

What's happening

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has made a final decision on the cleanup plan for the J.H. Baxter wood treatment facility in Eugene and completed the formal documentation of the plan in a Record of Decision. The "ROD" describes not only the final cleanup plan, but also includes DEQ's response to all the public comments received on the proposed cleanup plan in May and June.

The cleanup, which follows a series of cleanup actions taken at the site in the 1990s, will involve:

- Excavation of contaminated soil in the stormwater ditch along the southern edge of the property
- A stabilizing liner and permanent cover over contaminated soil and onsite pond sediments
- Regular inspection of the cover and liners
- Continuous operation of a groundwater extraction and treatment system to prevent contamination from moving off site
- Offsite sampling near the facility to update historical sample results
- Restricting groundwater use on site to industrial purposes and monitoring the use off site to ensure protection of all neighboring properties



The J.H. Baxter facility in Eugene.

Background

The 31-acre site at 85 Baxter Street has been an active wood treatment facility since the early 1940s. Historical spills and material handling practices have resulted in soil and groundwater

contamination by various chemicals including dioxins, furans, pentachlorophenol and arsenic.

From 1993 through 1999, Baxter took interim measures such as improving operating procedures, installing a groundwater extraction system, removing contaminated soil, and creating an inventory of all pumping wells in the area to ensure no drinking water use. This cleanup plan builds on those measures making them permanent as well as more completely addressing remaining soil contamination.

Next Steps

Baxter will now be responsible for implementing this cleanup plan. This will begin with a scheduling meeting by early November followed by field work over the next several years.

Where can I get more information?

The ROD is available in DEQ's Environmental Cleanup Site Information database at <http://deq.state.or.us/lq/ecsi/ecsiquery.asp> (search Site ID 55).

You can also contact DEQ Project Manager Ann Farris directly at any of the following:
phone: 541-687-7361
mail: 165 E. 7th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon 97401, or
email: farris.ann@deq.state.or.us.

Alternative formats

DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than English upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email deqinfo@deq.state.or.us.

Western Region Emergency Response and Cleanup

165 E. 7th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401
Phone: 541-687-7361
Contact: Ann Farris

www.oregon.gov/DEQ

DEQ is a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water.