

## Off-site Soil Results at J.H. Baxter Wood Treatment Facility in Eugene



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

### Western Region Emergency Response and Cleanup

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maintaining and enhancing  
the quality of Oregon's air,  
land and water.*

### What's happening

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) received results from eight off-site soil samples required under the October 2019 cleanup plan for J.H. Baxter's (Baxter) wood treatment facility in Eugene. One sample was collected in each of the orange and green areas, called decision units, shown in Figure 1 on Page 2.

Four results, including one in the Bethel Neighborhood directly north of the facility and three stormwater ditch locations, indicated elevated levels of dioxins, a group of toxic chemical, which can be associated with wood-treating chemicals.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) reviewed these draft results and determined the dioxin levels represent a low public health risk. However, the levels in those four samples are elevated above DEQ's standard residential cleanup levels. This means that additional soil sampling is needed to understand the extent of the issue and if cleanup is necessary.

DEQ has formed a technical work group which includes Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) and the City of Eugene to investigate the sources and extent of the contamination. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will also participate to further evaluate any potential health risks to the community.

The agencies are forming a community engagement group comprised of community members interested in the JH Baxter facility. This group will work closely with the technical work group to help inform the investigation, as well as share information with the general community.

### Background

The 31-acre site at 85 Baxter Street has been an active wood treatment facility since the early 1940s. Historical spills and operational practices have resulted in soil and groundwater contamination. The facility has also had issues with air emissions and concerns from residents about odors and possible, related health effects.

Over the years, DEQ and LRAPA have investigated the facility and issued numerous enforcement actions and required cleanup measures. In October 2019,

DEQ issued a cleanup plan, called a Record of Decision, which required this offsite sampling along with other cleanup actions on the Baxter property. Also in 2019, LRAPA included Baxter in the first set of facilities in Lane County to go through the Cleaner Air Oregon process.

### Next steps

Additional sampling of air, water, and soil will be completed with oversight from the technical work group. Communications with the public will continue through the community engagement group as more information becomes available through this winter and next spring.

### Where can I get more information?

DEQ's J.H. Baxter website at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Programs/Pages/JH-Baxter.aspx>

Information on the Cleaner Air Oregon Process can be found at LRAPA's website: <http://www.lrapa.org/327/JH-Baxter-Co---Eugene-Plant>

You can also contact DEQ's Cleanup Project Manager, Ann Farris, at 541-687-7361, or email: [DEQWRCleanup@deq.state.or.us](mailto:DEQWRCleanup@deq.state.or.us)

LRAPA Public Information Officer, Travis Knudsen, at 541-736-1056 ext. 217, or email: [travis@lrapa.org](mailto:travis@lrapa.org)

OHA Environmental Health Assessment Program at 971-673-0482, or email: [ehap.info@state.or.us](mailto:ehap.info@state.or.us)

### Alternative formats

A Spanish translation is on the back side, but DEQ can provide documents in an alternate format or in a language other than these two upon request. Call DEQ at 800-452-4011 or email [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us).

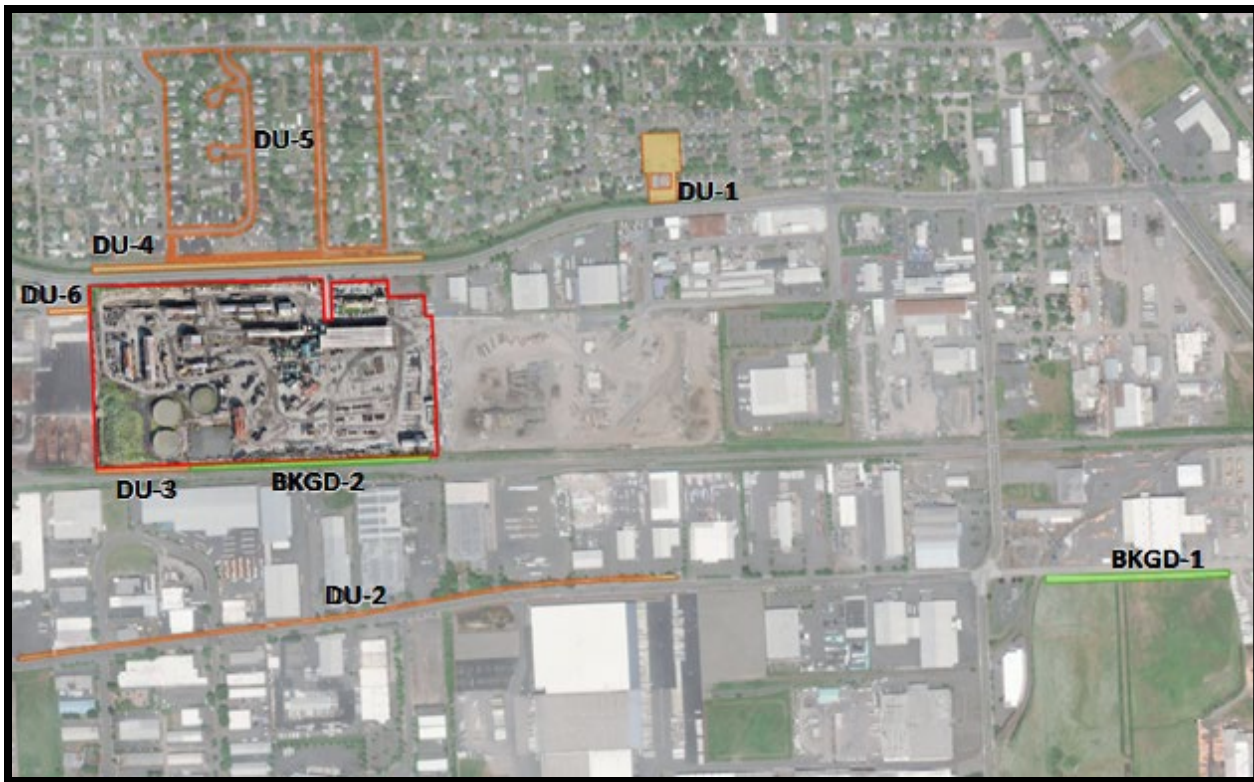


Figure 1 - Each DU is one soil/sediment sample, consisting of a mix of 30 increments from a public area within the colored lines.