

NATIONAL PRIORITIES LIST (NPL)

NPL Site

July 2025

J. H. BAXTER | **Eugene, Oregon**
Lane County

Site Location:

The J. H. Baxter site includes a former wood treating facility located at approximately, 3494 Roosevelt Blvd. in Eugene, Lane County, Oregon. The approximately 32-acre facility is adjacent to two drainages, Roosevelt Channel and an unnamed drainage ditch, located in a mixed residential, commercial, and industrial zoned portion of the city of Eugene.

Site History:

Wood treating operations began in 1943 and continued until J. H. Baxter & Co. shut down the facility in January 2022. Due to violations of air and water quality permits, hazardous waste violations, and complaints of intense odors, the facility has been under investigation since 1989 by the EPA and state and local agencies. The facility at the center of the site is currently owned by J. H. Baxter & Co., a California Limited Partnership.

Site Contamination/Contaminants:

Contamination is present in groundwater, sediments, and soils from historic operational practices and spills. Wood treating chemicals were left in place in on-site tanks, retorts, and other containers when the facility halted operations in 2022. Laboratory analytical results for samples collected by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the EPA indicate that facility and nearby residential soils are contaminated with dioxins, arsenic, cadmium, lead, dieldrin, dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene (DDE), and benzo(a)pyrene. Laboratory analytical results for soil samples collected from residential properties north of the facility identified concentrations of dioxins above EPA Regional Screening Levels (RSLs). Additionally, soil samples collected from the facility exceed RSLs for dioxins and arsenic. Sediments in Roosevelt Channel and an unnamed ditch are contaminated with dioxins, arsenic, dieldrin, DDE, benzo(a)pyrene, and cadmium. Sediment samples collected downstream of the facility contained concentrations of dioxins and metals above the respective Oregon DEQ Risk-Based Concentration up to three miles downstream of the facility.

Potential Impacts on Surrounding Community/Environment:

Contamination in facility and residential soils may pose a threat to remaining facility workers, trespassers, and residents, including children. Areas of soil contamination at residential properties include areas used by residents for recreation, lawn and house maintenance, and gardening. Additionally, there is evidence of sediment contamination in Roosevelt Channel and an unnamed drainage ditch, which pose potential impacts to downstream fisheries and wetlands. Contaminated groundwater also presents concerns to the environment.

Response Activities (to date):

As of May 2024, Oregon DEQ conducted soil cleanup activities at seven nearby residential properties. The EPA initiated a CERCLA time critical removal action in early August 2024 to address threats posed by hundreds of thousands of gallons of hazardous substances left at the facility.

Need for NPL Listing:

The state of Oregon referred the site to the EPA because of the contamination present at the J. H. Baxter wood-treatment facility. Other federal and state cleanup programs were evaluated, but no other program has the appropriate authorities or resources to address the site at this time. The state of Oregon provided the EPA with a letter of support for placing this site on the NPL.

[The description of the site (release) is based on information available at the time the site was evaluated with the HRS. The description may change as additional information is gathered on the sources and extent of contamination. See 56 FR 5600, February 11, 1991, or subsequent FR notices.]

For more information about the hazardous substances identified in this narrative summary, including general information regarding the effects of exposure to these substances on human health, please see the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) ToxFAQs. [ATSDR ToxFAQs](https://www.cdc.gov/TSP/ToxFAQs/ToxFAQsLanding.aspx) can be found on the Internet at <https://www.cdc.gov/TSP/ToxFAQs/ToxFAQsLanding.aspx> or by telephone at 1-800-CDC-INFO or 1-800-232-4636.