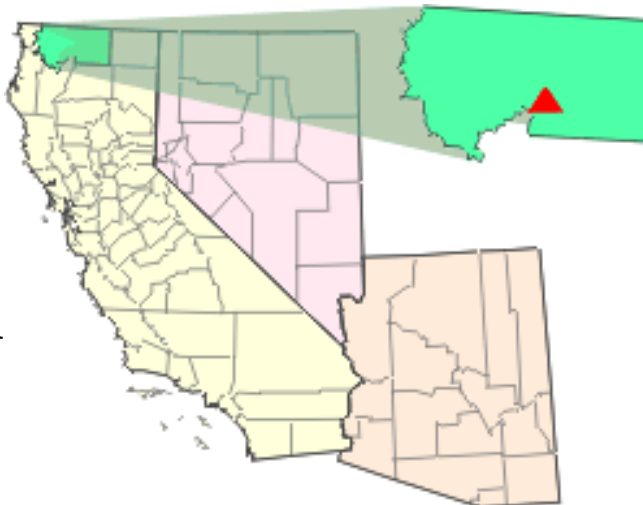


# **J. H. BAXTER & CO. CALIFORNIA**

**EPA ID#  
CAD000625731**



**EPA Region 9  
City: Weed  
County: Siskiyou  
Other Names:  
Roseburg Forest  
Products  
Baxter/International  
Paper/Roseburg**

[Click here for interactive site area map](#)

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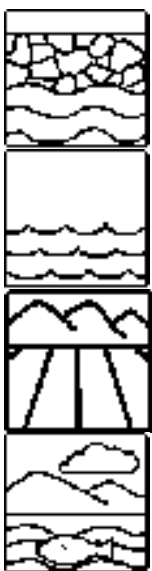
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## ▼ SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

**Description:** J.H. Baxter & Co. has owned and operated a 35-acre wood-treatment facility at this site since 1962. Prior to 1962, the plant was owned by Long Bell Lumber Company and International Paper. Roseburg Forest Products operates a 1,000-acre lumber mill adjacent to the site. Wood treatment operations at Baxter involve the application of chemical compounds to lumber to help the wood resist deterioration caused by insects and fungi. The current processes use creosote, petroleum, arsenic, copper, chromium, and zinc. Until 1982, however, Baxter also used pentachlorophenol (PCP). For approximately 25 years prior to 1962, the International Paper Company operated the facility and used many of these same chemicals. Hazardous sludges were disposed of on site in unlined pits or bermed areas. From 1976 to 1983, contaminated process water was sprayed onto an open field at the southern edge of Baxter's property. Excess wastewater periodically was held in unlined ponds, entering soil and groundwater. An additional source of contamination has been excess chemicals that have dripped from treated lumber onto the soil. In addition, periodic overflows, accidents, and leaks have contributed to the environmental problems at the site. Approximately 3,450 people live within 3 miles of the site, and 200 people within 3 miles use groundwater as a drinking water source. Beaughton Creek, which has been contaminated by site chemicals, runs through the site and formerly was a prime trout habitat.

Site Responsibility:	NPL LISTING HISTORY
This site is being addressed through Federal and potentially responsible parties' actions.	<b>Proposed Date:</b> 06/24/88
	<b>Final Date:</b> 10/04/89
	<b>Deleted Date:</b>

## ▼ THREATS AND CONTAMINANTS



Groundwater, surface water, and sediments are contaminated with PCP, creosote, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PNAs), arsenic, and heavy metals including chromium, and zinc. Soil contains arsenic, chromium, PCP, creosote, PNAs, and dioxin. People face a health threat if they accidentally ingest, inhale, or come into direct contact with contaminated groundwater, soil, surface water, sediments, or dust. In 1990, the EPA sampled off-site soils for arsenic and chromium, but found no significant contamination. Beaughton Creek, formerly a trout habitat, has been contaminated with creosote.

## ▼ CLEANUP APPROACH

This site is being addressed in two stages: immediate actions and a long-term remedial phase focusing on cleanup of the entire site.

### ▼ Response Action Status



**Immediate Actions:** In 1986, the potentially responsible parties installed a fence around the site to prevent direct contact with the site contaminants.



**Entire Site:** In 1990, the EPA selected a cleanup approach for contaminated groundwater and soils at the site. The selected groundwater cleanup plan involves extraction, biotreatment, and chemical precipitation of contaminants. The treated groundwater will be reinjected or used for irrigation or industrial processes. Contaminated soil will be excavated and treated in one of two ways: naturally occurring microorganisms will be used to treat soils contaminated with organic chemicals, and soils contaminated with inorganic chemicals will be treated using a cement-like substance to chemically fix the contaminants. Recent surveys indicate that fish are returning to Beaughton Creek and that dredging sediments for cleanup purposes would do more harm than good. Engineering designs for the groundwater and soil cleanup began in 1991 and are expected to be completed in late 1996. In 1993, the potentially responsible parties built an interim groundwater treatment plant while the final design work is being completed.

**Site Facts:** In 1983, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (CRWQCB) issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order and a Cease and Desist Order. In 1984, the CRWQCB ordered Roseburg to cease discharge of contaminated water. In 1991, EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order to the responsible parties requiring them to carry out the cleanup

## ▼ ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS



A fence installed at the site restricts contact with site contaminants at the J.H. Baxter site while cleanup activities are being implemented.

## ▼ POTENTIALLY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Potentially responsible parties (PRPs) refers to companies that are potentially responsible for generating, transporting, or disposing of the hazardous waste found at the site.

Online information about the PRPs for the site is not yet available.

## ▼ SITE DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

**Administrative Records:** [Soils and Groundwater](#)

**Records of Decision:** [1\) Amendment #1 to the Record of Decision for the J.H. Baxter Superfund Site](#)

[2\) J.H. Baxter Superfund Site Record of Decision](#)

**Technical Documents:**

## ▼ COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

**Public Meetings:**

**Newsletters and Fact Sheets:**

- 1) [Sep 1997 - EPA Proposes Modification to Groundwater and Soils Remedy](#)
- 2) [Mar 1999 - EPA Announces Construction Activity For Groundwater And Soils Remedy](#)
- 3) [Mar 2000 - EPA Continues Construction Activity for Groundwater and Soils Remedy](#)

## ▼SITE REPOSITORIES/LIBRARY SOURCES



**The public information repositories for the site are at the following locations:**

Weed Library,  
780 South Davis Street, 96094  
Weed, CA 96094

College of the Siskiyous  
Library,  
800 College Avenue, Weed,  
CA 96094

**The most complete collection of documents is the official EPA site file, maintained at the following location:**

Superfund Records Center  
Mail Stop SFD-7C  
95 Hawthorne Street, Room 403  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 536-2000

**Enter main lobby of 75 Hawthorne street, go to 4th floor of South Wing Annex.**

## ▼CONTACTS

**EPA SITE MANAGER:**

Beatriz Bofill

**ADDRESS:**

**PHONE NUMBER:**

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

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**EPA COMMUNITY  
INVOLVEMENT COORDINATOR:**

Vicky Semones

**ADDRESS:**

**PHONE NUMBER:**

1-800-231-3075

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

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**PUBLIC INFORMATION  
CENTER:**

(415) 947-8701

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

r9.info@epamail.epa.gov

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**STATE CONTACT:**

**ADDRESS:**

**PHONE NUMBER:**

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**PRP CONTACT:**

**ADDRESS:**

**PHONE NUMBER:**

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**COMMUNITY CONTACT:**

**ADDRESS:**

**PHONE NUMBER:**

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**After Hours (Emergency Response)  
State Environmental Protection Agency  
(800) 852-7550**

**US Environmental Protection Agency  
(800) 424-8802**

## ▼ MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

**STATE:**

CA

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:**

02

**EPA ORGANIZATION:**

SFD-7-1