

From: [Ogle, Kimberly](#)
To: [DOUGHTEN Ron * DEQ](#)
Cc: [ACOMB Jeannette * DEQ](#); [WILLIAMS Becky * DEQ](#); [CONDON Killian * DEQ](#)
Subject: RE: UPDATED JH BAXTER MEMO
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025 1:12:01 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Thanks!

From: DOUGHTEN Ron * DEQ <ron.a.doughten@deq.state.or.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 12:23 PM
To: Ogle, Kimberly <Ogle.Kimberly@epa.gov>
Cc: ACOMB Jeannette * DEQ <Jeannette.ACOMB@deq.oregon.gov>; WILLIAMS Becky * DEQ <Becky.Williams@deq.oregon.gov>; CONDON Killian * DEQ <condon.killian@deq.state.or.us>
Subject: RE: UPDATED JH BAXTER MEMO

Caution: This email originated from outside EPA, please exercise additional caution when deciding whether to open attachments or click on provided links.

Hi Kim—

You are correct that DEQ's RCRA program is transferring the site to CERCLA and will have not additional involvement unless operations resume. DEQ's Cleanup program may continue to be involved with the CERCLA efforts.

Thanks.

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Ron Doughten
Manager, Materials Management & Hazardous Waste
Eastern Region – Columbia Gorge Office
400 E. Scenic Dr., Suite 307
The Dalles, OR 97058
o: 541-298-7256
m: 503-422-2064

From: Ogle, Kimberly <Ogle.Kimberly@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 10:00 AM
To: DOUGHTEN Ron * DEQ <ron.a.doughten@deq.state.or.us>
Cc: ACOMB Jeannette * DEQ <Jeannette.ACOMB@deq.oregon.gov>
Subject: FW: UPDATED JH BAXTER MEMO


Hi Ron and Jeanette: We're in the process of officially deferring the JH Baxter site in Oregon to CERCLA. It is my understanding (correct me if I am wrong) that ODEQ's Cleanup program may still be involved with the CERCLA efforts but that ODEQ's HW program will not be involved with the JH Baxter site (assuming it does not restart operations under a new owner). If you would please reply to this email that you are on board with us deferring to CERCLA, we can complete the transition. Thank you.

From: McArthur, Lisa <McArthur.Lisa@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2025 8:47 AM
To: Grasso, Melanie <Grasso.Melanie@epa.gov>; Ogle, Kimberly <Ogle.Kimberly@epa.gov>
Cc: Doud, Emma <Doud.Emma@epa.gov>; Naples, Eileen <Naples.Eileen@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: UPDATED JH BAXTER MEMO

After reading the HQ policy again, the draft memo, and this letter, I have a question that needs to be answered before I can send SEMD another version of the memo. I don't read this letter as a referral/transfer from ODEQ to CERCLA, I read this as welcoming CERCLA involvement in a site where ODEQ will continue to be involved. Please catch me up on what conversations you have had with ODEQ about this. I need to know that ODEQ is on board with us sending SEMD a memo that refers/transfers the site from the state RCRA program to CERCLA. If there's something I don't understand here, please set up a meeting and include everyone on this email.

Thanks,
Lisa

From: Grasso, Melanie <Grasso.Melanie@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 1:22 PM
To: McArthur, Lisa <McArthur.Lisa@epa.gov>
Cc: Doud, Emma <Doud.Emma@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: UPDATED JH BAXTER MEMO

Apologies as I had forgotten to add mention of the attachment. This is now included.  [JH Baxter CERCLA Memo3.20.25 edited 3-26-25 Grasso.docx](#)

From: Grasso, Melanie
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 1:17 PM
To: McArthur, Lisa <McArthur.Lisa@epa.gov>
Cc: Doud, Emma <Doud.Emma@epa.gov>
Subject: UPDATED JH BAXTER MEMO

Hi!

Here is the updated memo, prior to official formatting by admin. I have highlighted the updated sections. Let me know what you all think before I send to Jocelyn for formatting.

Thanks for the support.

Melanie

From: Grasso, Melanie
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 12:59 PM
To: McArthur, Lisa <McArthur.Lisa@epa.gov>; Doud, Emma <Doud.Emma@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Memo referring JH Baxter (Eugene, OR) to CERCLA

Hi all, here is the letter from OR's Governor for JH BAXTER.

From: McArthur, Lisa <McArthur.Lisa@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 10:06 AM
To: Grasso, Melanie <Grasso.Melanie@epa.gov>; Doud, Emma <Doud.Emma@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Memo referring JH Baxter (Eugene, OR) to CERCLA

Given this, let's please make the memo out to Beth Sheldrake. Please change how we talk about the site NPL status in the memo to "proposed." I'm open to your input on whether we need to mention that it's a State RCRA site, I don't think that makes any difference for the transfer. Finally, please send me the June 10th "record of site transfer" so that I can send that to Beth, along with the revised memo.

Thanks, and sorry about the rew-work,

Lisa

From: Sheldrake, Beth <sheldrake.beth@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 8:34 AM
To: Lynch, Kira <lynch.kira@epa.gov>; McArthur, Lisa <McArthur.Lisa@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Memo referring JH Baxter (Eugene, OR) to CERCLA

Hi Lisa. I also think this memo should technically go to me. The site assessment and NPL listing program, as well as the removal program, is in my Branch and I think that is technically the parts of the CERCLA program where the site was referred. We then made the decision to propose the site to the NPL in Sept 2024 and Kira is correct that it is still in the "proposed" not "final" status. We do not know at this point if or when it will be listed as final. I guess you could include both Kira and I to cover all parts of the CERCLA program if you would like. My understanding is that this was a State RCRA site and the EPA RCRA program really had no involvement. Should that be somehow noted in this

th

memo? I am also not aware of the June 10 “record of site transfer” referenced in the memo.

Beth Sheldrake, Branch Manager
Emergency Management, Site Assessment and Removal Branch
EPA Region 10, Superfund & Emergency Management Division
1200 Sixth Ave., Suite 155 (Mail Code: 13-J07)
Seattle, WA 98101
C: 206-890-1827
O: 206-553-0220
Sheldrake.beth@epa.gov

From: Lynch, Kira <lynch.kira@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 8:27 AM
To: McArthur, Lisa <McArthur.Lisa@epa.gov>
Cc: Sheldrake, Beth <sheldrake.beth@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Memo referring JH Baxter (Eugene, OR) to CERLCA

Hi Lisa

My only question on this memo is its reference to the site being on the NPL which is actually not technically correct since it is only proposed at this time. My other question is I am not aware of the 6/10/24 memo referenced? Kira

Kira Lynch, Remedial Cleanup Branch
EPA Region 10, Superfund & Emergency Management Division
1200 Sixth Ave., Suite 155 (Mail Code: 12-D12-1)
Seattle, WA 98101
206-553-2144
206-507-8411 ©

From: McArthur, Lisa <McArthur.Lisa@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 7:56 AM
To: Lynch, Kira <lynch.kira@epa.gov>
Cc: Grasso, Melanie <Grasso.Melanie@epa.gov>; Doud, Emma <Doud.Emma@epa.gov>
Subject: Memo referring JH Baxter (Eugene, OR) to CERLCA

Kira, hi.

HQ has a new process for us (RCRA) to do a better job documenting when we refer a RCRA site to CERCLA (in response to an OIG audit). If you read this memo and it all looks good to you, please sign and return to me, and I will put it in SEMS. If you have any questions, or would like a conversation, I'm happy to do that, too. Just let me know what works for you,

Lisa

Lisa McArthur

RCRA and Tanks Branch Manager

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10

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(206) 553-1814



June 10, 2024

Casey Sixkiller, Regional Administrator
Office of Environmental Cleanup, Region 10
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98102

RE: Support for NPL Listing – J.H. Baxter Eugene

Dear Regional Administrator Sixkiller:

On behalf of the State of Oregon, I support the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed listing of the J. H. Baxter site in Eugene to the National Priorities List.

The J.H. Baxter site, which was home to a wood treater starting in the early 1940s, has been of concern to the state for many years. The company has conducted treatment of a groundwater contamination plume at the site since 1994, and J.H. Baxter has been under a cleanup order from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) since 2019. DEQ discovered elevated levels of dioxins in the surrounding neighborhood in 2021, which widened the area of concern. The facility closed in January 2022, and DEQ requested assistance from EPA in March 2022 to help characterize the contamination both on the site and in the surrounding community. The involvement of your EPA Region 10 staff in helping characterize the contamination has improved our understanding of the impact of the site and made it clear that the resources available through an NPL listing are critical to a timely cleanup.

In addition to EPA and DEQ, there has been significant involvement from other state and local regulatory agencies, community organizations, and the general public. The level of public involvement and interest in this site has been high, particularly regarding the contamination in the residential neighborhood adjacent to the site and, in part, due to environmental justice concerns. DEQ has begun the first residential cleanups on some of the properties with the highest levels of dioxins, but much more work remains to be done to ensure the long-term public health of Oregonians living near the site. The level of resources, staff, and expertise that EPA can bring to bear on this site will be crucial in this effort.

Administrator Sixkiller

June 10, 2024

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I value the cooperative relationship between Oregon and EPA as we continue the cleanup efforts at J.H. Baxter and in the surrounding neighborhood to help return the land to a safe condition for Oregonians living in the area and for future generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Kotek", with a stylized, cursive script.

Governor Tina Kotek

cc: Calvin Terada, Director, EPA Region 10 Superfund and Emergency Management Division
Leah Feldon, Director, Oregon DEQ