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# Oregon

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DEPARTMENT OF  
HUMAN  
RESOURCES

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Health Division

**DATE:** July 2, 1991

**TO:** All Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department licensees holding commercial crayfish harvesters licenses and harvesting on the Willamette River

**FROM:** Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department and Oregon Health Division

Dear Licensee:

The Oregon Health Division is cooperating with the Department of Environmental Quality in assessing the environmental impact of chemicals used at the McCormick and Baxter Creosoting Company plant located on the east bank of the Willamette River about one mile upstream from the St. Johns Bridge. Visual observations and limited testing of sediment from the river in the immediate area of the plant have shown that toxic materials have reached the river. Over the next year, the Health Division and DEQ will be performing additional tests of water, sediment and organisms from the area to determine the extent and seriousness of the contamination.

The testing done so far suggests that fish, crayfish and other organisms caught near the plant may be unsafe for food.

Until further notice, you are advised not to harvest crayfish within a radius of 1000 feet of the Burlington Northern Railroad bridge footing on the east bank of the Willamette River.

The Health Division, Department of Environmental Quality, and Fish and Wildlife Department have arranged for the posting of warning signs and have issued limited media notifications to alert sport fishermen and local recreational users of this area.

If you would like to discuss this request, details of the advisory, or the assessment in general, feel free to call Ken Kauffman (229-5022) or Dr. Roseanne Lorenzana (229-5502).

BARBARA ROBERTS  
Governor



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Emergency