Coordination & Engagement on Issues Related to the JH Baxter Facility

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CORE TEAM
Meeting 27
Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Meeting Summary

Participants for All or Part of the Meeting: Arjorie Arberry-Baribeault (BT), Robin Bloomgarden (BT/ABC), Nicole Caveny (EPA), Anne Christopher (EPA), Alice Corcoran (EPA), Dylan Darling (DEQ), Diane DeAutremont (Community Member/JHB Neighbor), Sarah Eagle (DEQ), Brad Eagleson (DEQ), Ed Farren (ABC), David Farrer (OHA), Keri Morin Handaly (CTGR), Travis Knudsen (LRAPA), Kaley Major (DEQ), Randy Nattis (EPA), Trevor Polivka (City of Eugene), Diana Rohlman (OSU), Nancy Sawka (DEQ), Brad Shultz (DEQ), Matt Sorensen (LRAPA), Jon Wilson (CoE), and Lin Woodrich (ABC); Facilitation Team: Donna Silverberg and Emily Stranz (DSC).

Welcome and Introductions - Donna welcomed the group with a round of introductions. She noted that this session is focused on reconnecting and hearing updates from EPA about the clean-up process, as well as to hear updates from Community, OHA, LRAPA, City of Eugene, Lane County, and DEQ representatives.

EPA Work Updates

Removal and Remedial Programs: Differences and Overlaps – Anne reminded the Core Team about the two EPA programs relevant to the JH Baxter (JHB) cleanup:

The Removal Program is for emergency response and short-term clean-up of waste that is important to remove quickly. Previously at JH Baxter (JHB), this work included removal of hazardous waste and the tanks onsite. The Remedial Program is EPA's longer-term clean-up effort which includes investigation of possible further contamination in the soil, under the site, and in the water. For purposes of the Remedial Program, the "site" is defined by where the contaminants have ended up and may not be just the JHB property. If contaminants have moved off the JHB property, those areas would become part of EPA's Superfund "site". To determine the boundaries of the site, EPA will test surrounding areas and waterways for contaminants possibly linked to JHB. The Removal and Remedial programs are currently working in tandem at JHB, which is unusual for EPA and points to the importance of the site to EPA.

Removal Program: Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) Update - Randy provided updates on the current Removal actions, noting EPA's recent press release and associated news articles including interviews with Emma Pokon, EPA's Regional Administrator. Randy clarified that this new round of TCRA includes additional actions from the last (2025) actions where EPA removed the tanks and retorts. During that phase, EPA discovered below ground oil and contamination that was not in the scope of work to be removed at that point in the project. Later, EPA explored that area to determine the level of contamination and proper soil/contaminant removal. After finding more that requires TCRA responsiveness, EPA signed another Action Memo in August which adds another $11.5 Million to fund cleanup at JHB, totaling over $25 Millon.

Randy shared photos of the last two weeks of TCRA efforts. The goal is to excavate as much soil as possible, then sort the soil for transportation and disposal. They are testing the soil as they go and developing "waste profiles" to help determine where and how to dispose properly.

He also pointed out that the ground water monitoring wells and the ground water pump-and-treat system are helping to contain and treat the contamination. He was happy to report the extraction wells are doing their job,

and DEQ also continues to monitor the wells. The TCRA actions will help find and alleviate the source of contamination that the extraction wells are dealing with.

In response to questions from the Core Team, Randy noted that the non-aqueous phase liquid (NAPL) is not a fire hazard. Also, EPA is working to do as much removal as possible before the rainy season starts; that said, light rain will not halt work, it just means that EPA will have to dig smaller excavations and backfill more quickly.

Randy reminded the group that the Remedial Program is necessary to clarify the edges and address the full extent of contamination and will pick up where the Removal Program leaves off. It is unclear the extent of the contamination. The Removal action is a 'bite-sized-chunk, but as noted, the Remedial Program is not limited to the JHB property lines. Anne reminded the Core Team that the deep soil core borings that EPA took in February 2026 (looking 30-45 feet down) helped to clarify the boundary area of the short-term Removal action to ensure it was the right scale for the TCRA to handle.

Multiple community Core Team members expressed appreciation for EPA's efforts, noting the thoroughness in cleanup as being exactly what the community needed.

Superfund Efforts to Date – Anne reported on the Superfund Remedial Program efforts.



The Remedial Program is currently in the remedial investigation/feasibility study phase. EPA broke up the remedial investigation into two parts so as not to get in the way of the Removal action happening on the property and because the JHB property will have different conditions when the Removal is complete. Now, EPA's Remedial program is preparing for off property sampling of water, ditches, soil, and residential soil sampling. Sampling will likely take place in November this year, with a 2nd phase of Remedial investigation on the JHB property once the Removal action is complete.

The timeline graphic shows the 'next steps' for the record of decision, cleanup, and ongoing operation and maintenance actions, with the end goal of deleting the site from the National Priority List. There is a public comment period associated with the proposed plan.

In response to questions, Anne noted that EPA can conduct Removal and Remedial actions at the same time, however, it is not common. The EPA team worked hard to pitch the case for implementing both programs at JHB due to the severity of the contaminants at the site. Also, Randy noted that while Baxter is no longer funding their own security, EPA has security onsite while they are working there.

As sampling may be needed at private properties, Lin offered to support EPA's efforts in contacting and gaining permission from residences for soil sampling. Anne and Nicole thanked Lin for the offer and shared that the sampling plan is currently in the works, they anticipate finalizing it in the coming weeks, and EPA will notify homeowners within next couple of months. EPA is putting together letters and authorization forms to access certain properties.

Group members shared additional resources and press:

- September 2026 EPA news release: EPA Begins Second Time-Critical Removal Action at J.H. Baxter Facility
- September 2026 DEQ news release: Statement from DEQ Director Leah Feldon
- EPA JHB TCRA Site Information
- Image List - EPA OSC Response

Dylan noted for everyone's awareness that Lookout Eugene remains interested in JHB and the Core Team and is expected to report on JHB on a regular cadence moving forward.

Updates from team members including community and agency efforts:

- ***ABC:*** Lin invited all to the ABC general meeting on Oct 21; ABC will elect board members and there is a candidate forum.
- ***Beyond Toxics:*** Arjorie shared that she is no longer working in West Eugene, but is still the BT Core Team representative. She is now hosting a podcast (Why We Do The Work Podcast - Beyond Toxics), where she shares public information on JHB. Arjorie is also working on policy at the State level and is representing BT on a rules advisory committee.
- ***City of Eugene:*** The City continues to conduct weekly water and site spot-checks at JHB and is available to help partners as needed.
- ***DEQ (Clean-up, water quality, hazardous waste, enforcement):*** These days, DEQ's efforts at JHB are in support of EPA as needed. They are working to keep JHB running and maintaining, monitoring and properly reporting on the operation of the stormwater and groundwater systems as required by their permit and funding groundwater monitoring. DEQ's Water Quality Program sent JHB a pre-enforcement notice in March, highlighting items that needed to be maintained to treat stormwater and groundwater. The groundwater system was refurbished around April 2026 and is working better now than previously. DEQ is keeping in touch with JHB to make sure the company is staying on top of the things it is responsible for.
- ***LRAPA (Air):*** Currently, LRAPA does not have oversight of JHB, however appreciates staying in coordination with the agencies who are working on JHB.
- ***OHA (Public health):*** OHA is happy to help review the Remedial Program sampling and analysis plan, along with DEQ when it is ready for review.

Next Steps & Action Items -The Core Team agreed to reconvene when EPA (or others) have updates to share. At that point, DSC will reach out to schedule a session.

Donna thanked the group for their participation and adjourned the meeting.

This summary is respectfully drafted by the DS Consulting Facilitation Team. Suggested edits are welcome and can be emailed to Emily Stranz (emily@dsconsult.co).