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### **First JH Baxter neighborhood air samples analyzed**

In an on-going effort to address odor issues in the JH Baxter neighborhood, LRAPA has begun conducting ambient sampling adjacent to the JH Baxter plant site. The sampling is conducted to coincide with plant-site processes, and sampling times are selected based on conditions that are expected to produce maximum emissions.

To date, the agency has completed its first set of samples and analyses from two separate occasions. Although it is too early to reach conclusions based on this initial set of analyses, of the detected chemicals with established OSHA and/or EPA standards, none was found to be above the OSHA standards, nor the EPA risk assessment Reference Concentrations when extrapolated to long-term exposures.

“This initial set of data gives us a glimpse of the levels of pollutants during plant-site operations on that particular day, but is far from an overall synopsis,” said Kim Metzler, LRAPA spokeswoman. “We’ll be conducting at least 10-15 more sample sets, which will give us more information with which to work.” Sampling is limited due to the \$2,000 per-sample analysis cost.

LRAPA will continue to share its findings with the community throughout the collection and analysis process. Once completed, the full data set will be forwarded to the Oregon Department of Human Services for further investigation by toxicologists with the Superfund Health Investigation and Education (SHINE) program.

Data was collected on January 6 and January 12, 2005, both upwind and downwind of the site in each instance. According to LRAPA staff conducting the collection, wood treatment odors were characterized as “mild” to “moderate” downwind of the plant where sampling was taking place. No wood treating odors were detected upwind of the plant.

Several chemicals associated with the wood treating processes were detected downwind from the Baxter site, including Naphthalene and 2-methylnaphthalene, the two most abundant components of the creosote substance used by JH Baxter. Of the detected chemicals having OSHA-established standards, the standards were found to be roughly 40 to 80,000 times greater than the concentrations measured in the samples.

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