LRAPA
Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

J.H. Baxter "Best Work Practices Agreement" equipment upgrades completed

At today's LRAPA board meeting, JH Baxter & Company announced that the installation of control equipment to abate odors from its creosote work tanks was completed and operational July 27, 2005. The control equipment, a carbon adsorption unit added to the creosote treating tanks, was required as part of the Best Work Practices Agreement between the agency and facility. Carbon adsorption is used to control organic emissions on venting streams. As vapors pass through activated carbon, the organic constituents are adsorbed onto the active surface sites of the carbon particles.

In a proactive move by the company, four additional tanks are being added to the carbon system to abate odors from those tanks as well. Installation of three of the four tanks has been completed at this time. The company stated they believe adding the pentachlorophenol tanks to the carbon adsorption control equipment would be the next logical step to take to abate odors, and volunteered to add them during this round of fixes.

In November 2005, JH Baxter will provide LRAPA with an evaluation of the effectiveness of the control measures and all feasible additional odor nuisance reduction controls. In the interim, LRAPA will continue to monitor air quality in the neighborhoods and work with neighbors to evaluate the effectiveness of the control strategies.

JH Baxter was declared a suspected nuisance in November 2003, after various efforts to reduce odors from the plant failed. On February 10, 2005, LRAPA and JH Baxter formalized an agreement obligating the company to install additional control equipment on its creosote work tanks, in addition to several other engineering fixes. Addition of the carbon adsorption equipment is the final operational fix required by the agreement. The agreement will be revisited in November, after LRAPA receives the company's evaluation report.

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