

families



air quality



environmental
justice



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE BUS TOUR AND BLACK AND BROWN UNITY

Saturday November 23rd, 2019

Bridge The Gap Presenters:

Black and Brown Unity Experts

Ramon Ramirez
Mark Harris

Frontline Testimonials

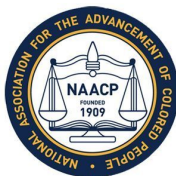
Josefina Cano
Carol Lafon

Event Sponsors:

City of Eugene

Special Thanks to Fresh and Naturals for food and St Marks Christian Church and Bethel Temple for hospitality, and the UO School of Journalism students.

A collaboration between...



NAACP
Eugene ~ Springfield Branch



Introduction

Welcome to the West Eugene Environmental Justice Bus Tour! We believe you have joined the bus tour to learn more about environmental justice in our community, children's health, local concerns about air quality, Black and Brown Unity and the relationship between race, pollution and health.

What is clean air?

Beyond Toxics has been an active partner with various West Eugene neighborhood groups for almost a decade. We have learned that one of the critical issues that the residents care about is the quality of their local air and its relationship to the health of their family. We have been told many times that the air in West Eugene is different, that it is "bad." When we think of what federal regulations exist to protect our air, it is important to know that the government has yet to established enforceable air quality standards for the vast majority of air toxics that are saturating our local airshed – carcinogens, neurotoxins, respiratory irritants and more. In other words, there are few, if any, limits on many air toxics. Furthermore, "clean air" laws do not protect residents. Beyond Toxics fought hard to win Oregon's new Cleaner Air Oregon laws which will finally add human health criteria to air quality regulations and Community Toxics Right-to-Know laws.

What is Environmental Justice?

Environmental justice is ensuring equal human health and environment protection for everyone – with special consideration for communities that are disproportionately burdened by environmental pollution and who are economically and social distressed. According to the EPA, "minority and/or low-income communities frequently may be exposed disproportionately to environmental harms and risks." President Clinton issued the 1994 Presidential Executive Order to address environmental justice in minority and low-income communities calling for an active commitment to create opportunities to participate meaningfully in the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

Do we have Environmental Justice Communities here in Eugene?

The research conducted by Beyond Toxics and others show that West Eugene is an environmental justice community. When compared to other Eugene neighborhoods, residents in West Eugene have:

- 1) Disproportionate exposure to air toxics -- 99% of all Eugene's air toxics are located in West Eugene (97402).
- 2) Higher percentage of poverty/low-income: 26%-38% of residents in the Industrial Corridor live at or below poverty level (<\$13,500), compared to 17% in 97405 area.
- 3) Higher percentage of minority residents: An average of 22% of residents in West Eugene are Latino, compared to an average of 9.5% for all of Eugene.

Did You Know?

Fairfield and Malabon Elementary Schools are ranked in the worst 12%-13% nationwide for school children exposed to carcinogens and air toxics because of cumulative levels of air toxics?

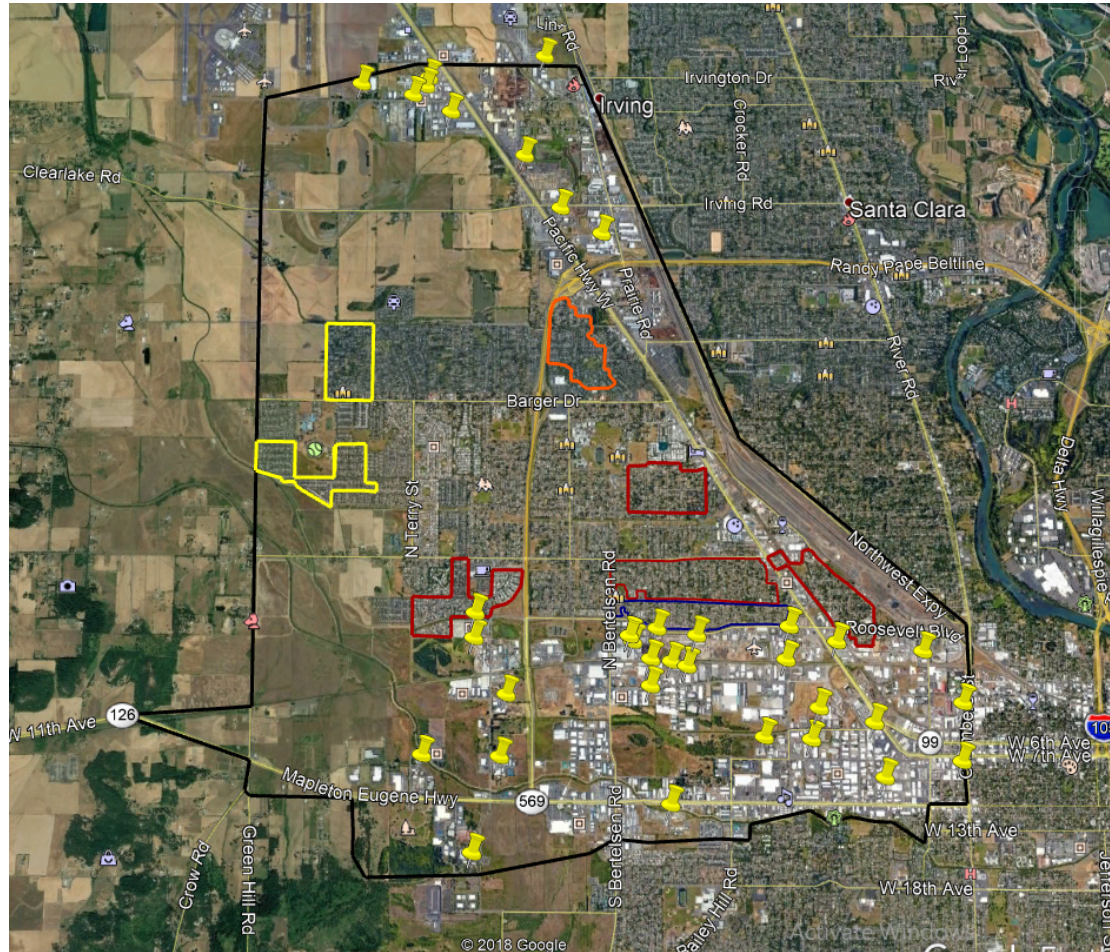
JH Baxter and Flakeboard are ranked as high health risks from the US EPA?

Eleven out of 15 West Eugene factories emit high levels of methanol into the air each year – causing breathing problems, sleep disorders and abdominal pain. However, there is no health risk assessment of cumulative methanol exposures on children.

For these reasons, Beyond Toxics analyzed multiple and cumulative air toxic exposures for vulnerable neighborhoods in West Eugene. We found that children in Bethel neighborhoods are chronically exposed to high levels of air toxics. For example, using historical data from the Eugene Toxics Reporting system, Bethel school children each breathe approximately 72 pounds of toxic chemicals every year – this is the same as each student potentially inhaling the volume of 144 large helium balloons of toxic chemicals!

What Makes West Eugene an Environmental Justice Community?

Percentages of Latinos in Population
(source: 2010 U.S. Census Bureau)



Yellow Pins = Every Industrial Company that by law has to report toxic emissions

Yellow Areas: 10%-20% Minority Population

Orange Area: 20%-30% Minority Population

Red Areas: 30%-40% Minority Population

Blue Area: > 40% Minority Population

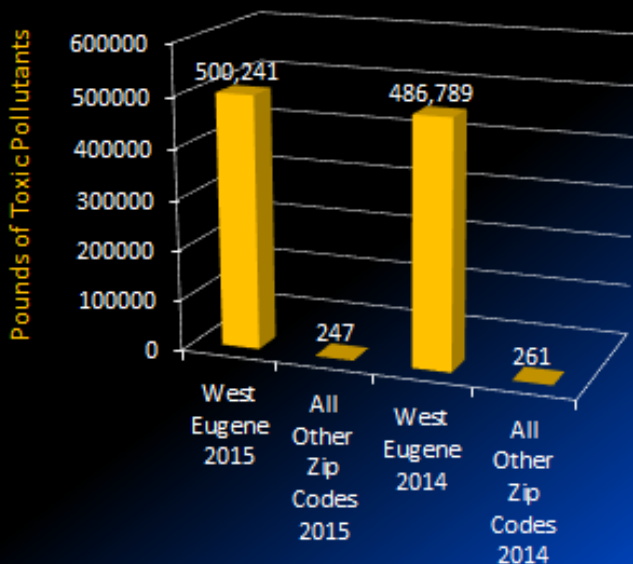
1 out of 4 houses were built pre-1960 meaning they are far less energy efficient.

Only TWO Grocery stores for the neighborhood. ONLY ONE has affordable and culturally relevant foods.

18 year lower life expectancy.

Holds 22% of the population of Eugene yet only holds 12% of the public transit lines that serve the city.

Disparities in Eugene's Air Pollution Risk



PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF 2019 WEST EUGENE EJ CANVASS

76% residents report feeling worse during bad smell days

42% smell pollution between 6PM-6AM

64% say air pollution negatively impacts lives

14% think it has added to disease risk to people and pets

70% have allergies

Toxic chemicals target your organs and body for serious harm

Children bear the greatest burden



New research shows that low-level exposures to toxic chemicals that disrupt hormones do not fit the typical dose-response curve. Moderate and low level exposures may be as damaging or more damaging than high doses.

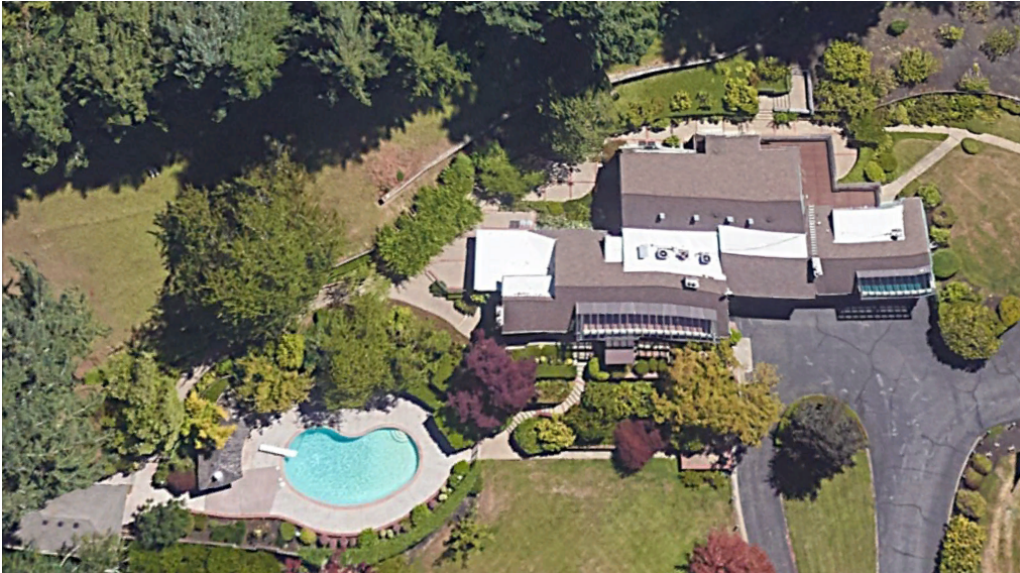
"In the last 40 years, we have learned that serious health effects of air pollutants are experienced at levels much lower than previously considered "safe" levels of exposure, particularly for vulnerable populations such as infants, children ... (a) given dose of a pollutant will have a greater impact on a child than on an adult not only due to their smaller size, but because of the nature of their growing bodies and minds. At sensitive points in child development, environmental exposures can have especially harmful effects...."

In fact, air pollution is associated with impaired lung growth that may have permanent, lifelong impacts on an individual's ability to breathe. These impacts can have health consequences and impose increased health costs across the lifespan."

(American Academy of Pediatrics: Clean Air and Public Health 6/2011)

"Whether low doses of endocrine disrupting chemicals influence certain human disorders is no longer conjecture ... environmental exposures are associated with human diseases and disabilities. We conclude that the effects of low doses cannot be predicted by the effects observed at high doses. Thus, fundamental changes in chemical testing and safety determination are needed to protect human health." (Endocrine Reviews 33: 2012)

Seneca/Jones Family Estate



-Listed at \$3.2 Million

-On 14 Acres

-800 ft Elevation

Political Contributions

Contributor	Amount	Recipient
Rebecca Jones	\$32,400	National Republican Senatorial Cmte (R)
Jody Jones	\$34,000	National Republican Senatorial Cmte (R)
Aaron Jones	\$25,000.00	Republican National Cmte (R)
Jody Jones	\$13,866.00	National Republican Senatorial Cmte (R)
Rebecca Jones	\$11,133.00	National Republican Senatorial Cmte (R)
Jody Jones	\$6,666.00	Republican National Cmte (R)
Rebecca Jones	\$6,666.00	Republican National Cmte (R)
Aaron Jones	\$5,000.00	Republican Party of Oregon (R)
Aaron Jones	\$5,000.00	Republican Party of Oregon (R)
Rebecca Jones	\$2,500.00	Republican Party of Oregon (R) Mitt Romney (R)
Jody Jones	\$2,600.00	Monica Wehby (R)
Jody Jones	\$2,300.00	Larry Craig (R)

Source: Center For Responsive Politics, OpenSecrets

The Seneca Family owns Seneca Jones Timber Company, Seneca Sawmill and Seneca Sustainable Energy Biomass Facility. All 3 businesses are major polluters of greenhouse gases, criteria air pollutants and air toxics.

TRAINSONG/UNION PACIFIC RAILYARD



Rail Yard Ground Water and Air Pollution:

In 1994, an environmental investigation of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Yard led to the discovery of groundwater contamination. Industrial solvents poisoned private wells and toxic vapors traveled through the ground into homes. Neighbors also observed that the outdoor air in Trainsong neighborhood had a “sickly sweet” or pungent “chemical” smell. The Superfund Health Investigation and Education Program confirmed that air contaminated with solvent chemicals is entering the crawlspaces of some homes in these neighborhoods that exceeded public health and safety standards. The solvents, vinyl chloride, PCE and TCE, are classified as probable human carcinogens. We successfully forced UP to pay for air vapor monitoring.



Industrial Surface and Ground Water Pollution:

The area around the rail yard has many perennial ponds and seasonal wetlands as well as a high water table. Water pollution affects multiple sites that are hydrologically connected. Pacific Recycling was recently cited for polluting surface water with toxic chemicals from uncontrolled run-off from their metals recycling yard. JH Baxter is responsible for serious surface and ground water pollution. Other industrial sites in the area may also contribute to problems of water pollution, in particular various auto wrecking yards. Pollution in ground and surface water can volatilize into the air as inhale-able pollutants.

Diesel Particulate and Dust:

Residents of Trainsong and River Road neighborhoods are exceptionally concerned about diesel particulate from diesel locomotives. Pollution transported by wind and air currents is inhaled by people before and after the particles have fallen onto the land. The US EPA classified diesel particulate pollution as likely to be carcinogenic to people. It is also associated with pre-term births, lower birth weight, asthma, pneumonia and heart disease.

Pesticides:

The Union Pacific Railroad routinely sprays herbicides along the length of its tracks. This practice creates a problem of chemical drift and trespass and can pose a public health risk.



Surface water from auto wrecking yard flows to perennial ponds near Trainsong neighborhood can contain petroleum, solvents and heavy metals.

Facility distance to nearest homes: a few yards



TRAINSONG/UP RAILYARD: DATA FOR AREA RESIDENTS

Per Capita Income Level	Percentage Latino Population	Percentage of families living at or below poverty level
\$22,084	18%	36%

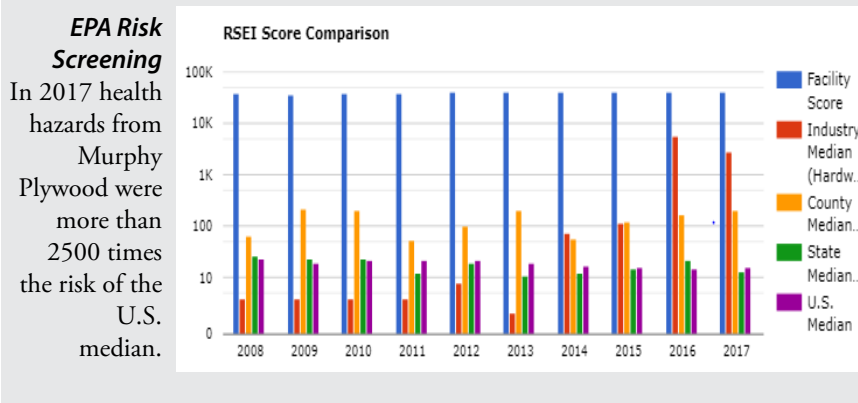
MURPHY PLYWOOD

2350 Prairie Road, | Eugene Oregon 97402



Established in 1986.

Total Particulate Matter Emissions: 47 tons/yr



MURPHY PLYWOOD: WOOD TREATMENT AND CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING PLANT

Agency reporting	Total pounds of air toxics (latest available data)	Top 3 Chemicals	Health Effects
TRI	45,110 (Methanol, formaldehyde)	METHANOL	LOSS OF VISION, SEVERE BODY PAIN, SLEEP DISORDERS
LRAPA	110,231	FORMALDEHYDE	CARCINOGEN , ALLERGEN, ASTHMA TRIGGER,
EUGENE	No TRTK Report	ACROLEIN	HEART AND BLOOD CLOTING, EYES AND RESPIRATORY FUNCTIONS

Murphy Plywood is one of the area’s major emitters of methanol at nearly 11,800 pounds/year. The plywood maker has estimated 14 tons of PM 2.5 emissions (finest particulate that lodges very deep in lung tissue and poses significant health risks); in addition they emit 33 tons of PM 10 (fine particles) for a total of 47 tons of particulate pollution. In 2002, the facility was found in violation for excess PM emissions. They are allowed to emit 74,000 tons of greenhouse gases yearly.

SENECA SAWMILL & BIOMASS

90201 Highway 99 N. | Eugene, OR 97402



Pollution History:

Seneca Sawmill’s 20-MW biomass power plant near Eugene failed initial control test for particulate and nitrogen oxide emissions; the company applied for a permit to emit more pollution in 2011, which was granted by LRAPA. Beyond Toxics filed a successful Civil Rights Complaint with the EPA over the LRAPA’s public engagement process when they awarded the revised permit. The \$50 million biomass plant generates up to 20 megawatts of power and consumes about 30 truckloads per day of biomass (Register-Guard 9/2010). They have refused to disclose the cost of the energy sold to Eugene’s EWEB electric customers.

Public Health:

In addition to significant carbon and nitrogen oxide releases, the biomass plant emits 39 separate toxic chemicals, many of which are carcinogens (e.g. dioxins) and heavy metals (e.g. lead and mercury).

Sawmill: PM: 108,027 PM 10: 59,524.8 PM 2.5: 46297.1
Biomass: PM: 35,274 PM 10: 35,274 PM 2.5: 35,274

*** CUMULATIVE POLLUTION EXPOSURES:**

Nearly every industrial facility in West Eugene emits carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, volatile organic compounds and particulate matter in hundreds of tons individually and thousands of tons in the aggregate annually . This kind of exposure has been linked by the American Lung Association to numerous diseases and medical conditions: cancer, cardiopulmonary diseases including heart attacks, strokes, premature death, birth defects, abnormal lung development in children and increased frequency of emergency room visits.

SENECA SAWMILL: WOOD PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

Agency reporting	Total pounds of air toxics (latest available data)
TRI	No TRI Report
LRAPA	218,258
EUGENE	No TRTK Report

Top 3 Chemicals*	Health Effects
ACETELDEHYDE	RESPIRATORY AND EFFECTS SIMILAR TO ALCOHOL POISONING
METHANOL	LOSS OF VISION, SEVERE BODY PAIN, SLEEP DISORDERS
HEXANE	CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM, DIZZINESS, NAUSEA AND HEADACHES

SENECA SUSTAINABLE ENERGY: BIOMASS ENERGY GENERATION

Agency reporting	Total pounds of air toxics (latest available data)
TRI	No TRI Report
LRAPA	85,980.3
EUGENE	No TRTK Report

Top 3 Chemicals*	Health Effects
HYDROCHLORIC ACID	COUGHING, HOARSENESS, INFLAMMATION AND ULCERATION OF RESPIRATORY TRACT
CHLORINE	FLUID IN THE LUNGS (PULMONARY EDEMA)
FORMALDEHYDE	CARCINOGEN , ALLERGEN, ASTHMA TRIGGER,

Housing proximity to Seneca Sawmill: 1500 ft (Enid St)



SENECA SAWMILL: PROXIMITY TO NEARBY SCHOOLS

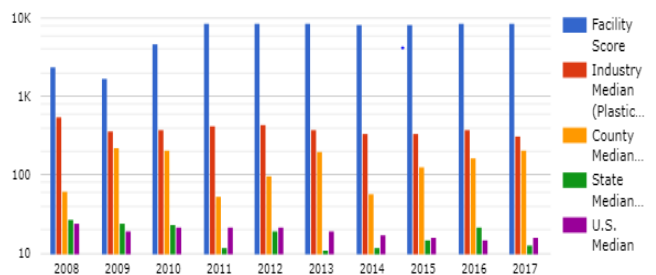
	Irving Elementary School	Willamette High School	Spring Creek Elementary School
Distance to Facility	1.5 mi E	2.4 mi S	1.9 mi E



2665 Highway 99 N. | Eugene, OR 97402

EPA Risk Screening
 In 2017 health hazards from Georgia-Pacific were 538 times the risk of the U.S. median.

RSEI Score Comparison



Acquired by Koch Industries in 2005.

PM: 52,910.9 Lbs /year **PM10:** 30,864.7 lbs/year), **PM2.5:** 13,007.3lbs/year

GEORGIA-PACIFIC: PLASTICS AND RESINS MANUFACTURING PLANT

Agency reporting	Total pounds of air toxics (latest available data)
TRI	6,702
LRAPA	88,184.9
EUGENE	No TRTK Report

Top 3 Chemicals	Health Effects
HYDROCHLORIC ACID	COUGHING, HOARSENESS, INFLAMMATION AND ULCERATION OF RESPIRATORY TRACT
FORMALDEHYDE	CARCINOGEN , ALLERGEN, ASTHMA TRIGGER,
METHANOL	LOSS OF VISION, SEVERE BODY PAIN, SLEEP DISORDERS

HWY 99 CORRIDOR

Includes: States Industries, McFarland Cascade

STATES INDUSTRY: HARDWOOD PANEL PRODUCTS

Top 3 Chemicals	Health Effects
CITRIC ACID	IRRITATION OF MUCOUS MEMBRANES
PHOSPHORIC ACID	BRONCHITIS, PHLEGM, LUNG IRRITATION
POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE	TEARING, REDNESS AND SWELLING OF EYES. SKIN RASHES

Agency reporting	Total pounds of air toxics (latest available data)
TRI	No TRI Report
LRAPA	85,980.3
EUGENE	NO DATA



States Industries pictured above.
29545 East Enid Road in Eugene, OR 97402.

States Industries
In violation of RCRA permit 7 quarters in a row throughout 2010-2011.

Result: No fines.

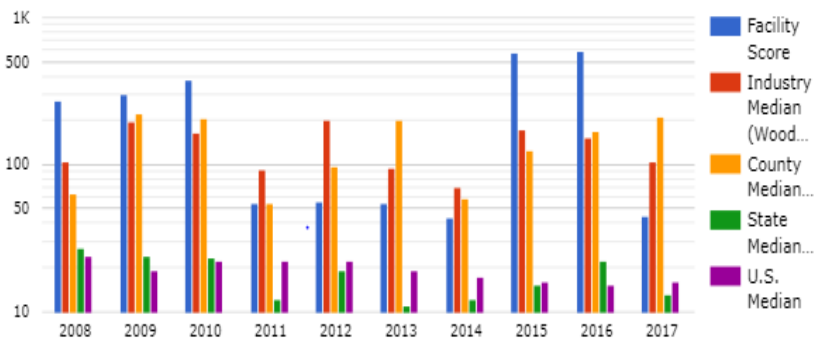


McFarland Cascade pictured on left.
90049 Hwy 99 N. | Eugene, OR 97402

McFarland Cascade
PM: 52,910.9 Lbs /year PM10: 30,864.7 lbs/ year), PM2.5: 13,007.3lbs/year

Public Health:
EPA Risk Screening – in 2017 health hazards from McFarland were approx. triple the risk of the U.S. Median, probably due to dioxin and PCP emissions; In 2001, 2006 as much as 40 grams of dioxin and 92 lbs of PCP released thru “catastrophic events” (above conventional reporting). Dioxin discharged directly to local airshed and Willamette Watershed.

RSEI Score Comparison

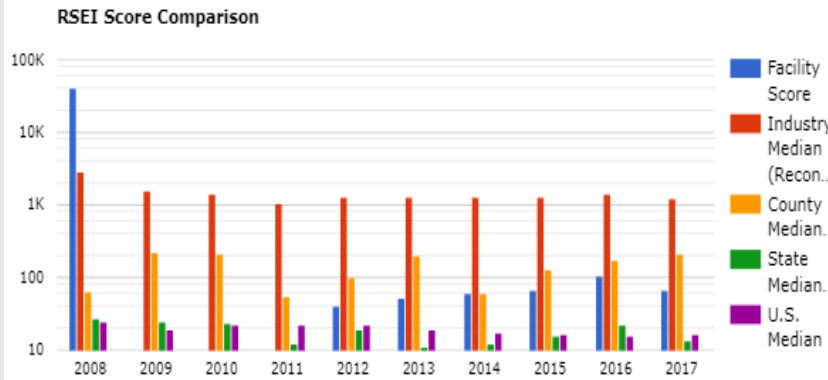


MCFARLAND CASCADE: WOOD POLES AND LUMBER

Agency reporting	Total pounds of air toxics (latest available data)	Top 3 Chemicals	Health Effects
TRI	52 (Pentachlorophenol)	HEXACHLOROBENZENE	NEUROLOGICAL, TERATOGENIC, LIVER, AND IMMUNE SYSTEM EFFECTS
LRAPA	130072.	PENTACHLOROPHENOL	CARCINOGEN, MISCARRIAGES, NEUROLOGICAL EFFECTS
EUGENE	No TRTK Report	DIOXIN	IMPAIRMENT OF IMMUNE SYSTEM, THE DEVELOPING NERVOUS SYSTEM, ENDOCRINE SYSTEM AND REPRODUCTIVE FUNCTIONS

ARAUCO NORTH AMERICA (FLAKEBOARD)

50 N. Danebo Ave.
Eugene, OR 97402



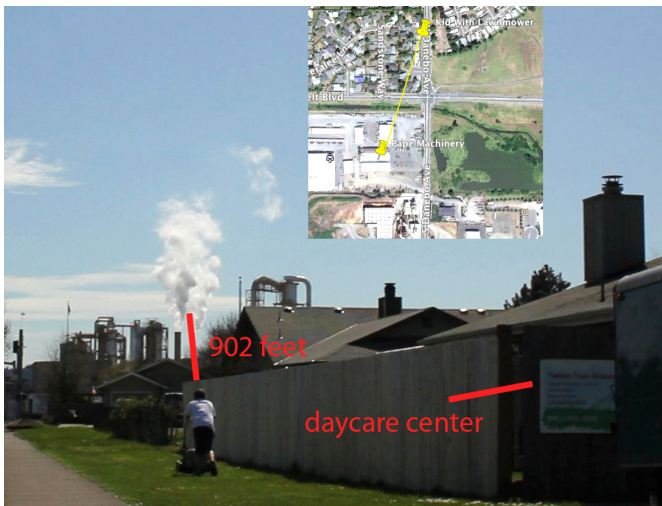
EPA Risk Screening – in 2017 health hazards from Flakeboard were more than 4 times the risk of the U.S. median.

PM: 130,073 Lbs /year **PM10:** 125,663 lbs/year,
PM2.5: 114,640 lbs/year

FLAKEBOARD: MANUFACTURE OF PARTICLEBOARD & MEDIUM DENSITY FIBERBOARD (MDF)

Agency reporting	Total pounds of air toxics (latest available data)
TRI	112,530 (Methanol)
LRAPA	414,469
EUGENE	105,605

Top 3 Chemicals	Health Effects
METHANOL	LOSS OF VISION, SEVERE BODY PAIN, SLEEP DISORDERS
FORMALDEHYDE	CARCINOGEN , ALLERGEN, ASTHMA TRIGGER
AMMONIA	BHRONCAL REACTIVITY OF THE RESPIRATORY TRACT



Pollution History:

Flakeboard releases Formaldehyde and Methanol, according to TRI and USA Today. According to Scorecard 2002, Flakeboard was considered one of the dirtiest/worst facilities in US, being in the top 90 percentile of facilities that emit air releases of recognized carcinogens. They have stopped using formaldehyde in their facility, but the US EPA reports that the facility will release 112,530 pounds of methanol and is projected to treat 13,523 pounds of methanol on their site in 2012. Methanol depresses the nervous system and can cause permanent blindness or death. Source: EPA, HHS

FLAKEBOARD VIOLATIONS

Date	Violation	Action Taken
10/1/2008	Excess releases of formaldehyde	Civil penalty - \$13,750
4/19/2001	Excess releases of particulates	No action
6/21/2000	Excess releases of particulates	No action
5/7/1998	Violations of the Prevention of Significant Deterioration	Required more pollution control

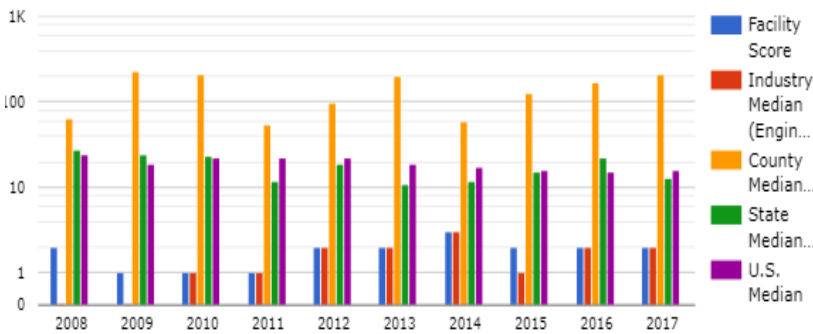
Facility distance to nearest homes:
500 ft (Morely Loop)



WEYERHouser TRUS JOIST

195 N Bertelsen Rd,
Eugene, OR 97402

RSEI Score Comparison



EPA Risk Screening – in 2017 health hazards from Trus Joist were more than 8 times lower the risk of the U.S. median.

PM: 130,073 Lbs /year **PM10:** 125,663 lbs/year),
PM2.5: 114,640 lbs/year

FLAKEBOARD: MANUFACTURE OF PARTICLEBOARD & MEDIUM DENSITY FIBERBOARD (MDF)

Agency reporting	Total pounds of air toxics (latest available data)
TRI	112,530 (Methanol)
LRAPA	114,640
EUGENE	101,537

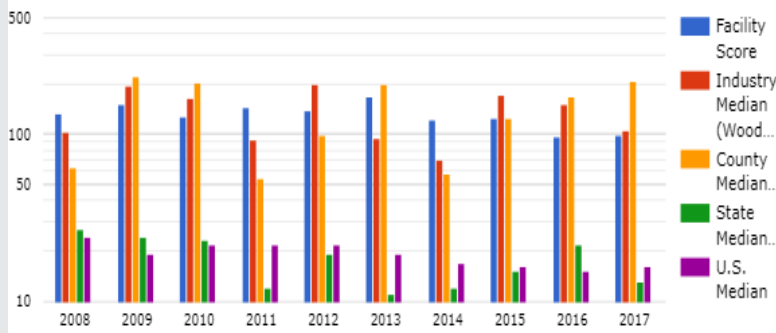
Top 3 Chemicals	Health Effects
METHANOL	LOSS OF VISION, SEVERE BODY PAIN, SLEEP DISORDERS
FORMALDEHYDE	CARCINOGEN , ALLERGEN, ASTHMA TRIGGER
PHENOL	ANOREXIA, VERTIGO COLORATION OF URINE, BLOOD AND LIVER

JH BAXTER

85 N. Baxter Rd. | Eugene, OR

2017 EPA Risk Screening shows health hazards from Baxter were 6 times the risk of the U.S. median.

RSEI Score Comparison



JH BAXTER

85 N. Baxter Rd. | Eugene, OR

BAXTER'S: WOOD TREATMENT AND CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING PLANT

Agency reporting **Total pounds of air toxics (latest available data)**

TRI 37,335 (Ammonia, creosote)

LRAPA 85,980. Lbs

EUGENE 42**

Top 3 Chemicals **Health Effects**

AMMONIA **RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS, EXTREME FATIGUE**

PENTACHLOROPHENOL **CARCINOGEN , MISCARRIAGES, NEUROLOGICAL EFFECTS**

CREOSOTE (NAPHTHALENE) **CARCINOGEN, NEUROLOGICAL EFFECTS, ANEMIA**

Facility distance to nearest school:
.6 miles
(Fairfield Elem.)



Pollution History:

Superfund site; 2,485 community complaints were filed with Air Authority since 2003; over 140 complaints in the last 2 years. Groundwater contamination (PCP and PAH's) extends off the site 2,500 feet west and northwest of the facility.

Public Health:

Most emissions are 36,000 lbs. of uncontrolled "fugitive" ammonia.

** **Note:** Baxter refuses to report creosote compounds (i.e., naphthalene) to Eugene Toxics Reporting, claiming exemption under FIFRA. However, EPA reports 943 lbs. creosote released (TRI 2010) "probable human carcinogen;" 250 lbs. Pentachlorophenol (TRI 2008), both are carcinogens. ATSDR reports naphthalene in 100% of the neighborhood's air samples in excess of EPA health benchmarks.

Facility distance to nearest homes:
100 ft (Cross St.)



J.H. BAXTER'S GROUNDWATER PLUMES

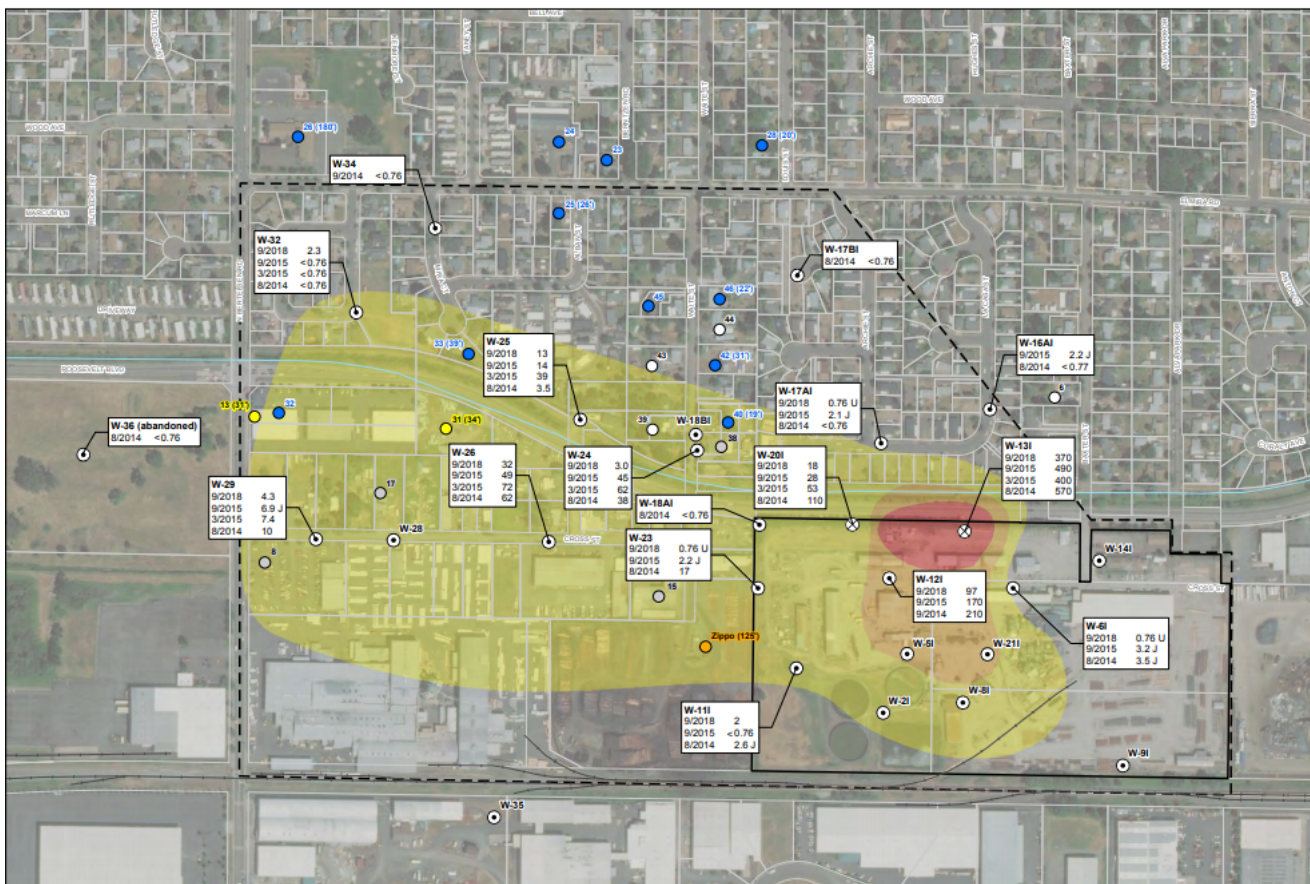


FIGURE 7
Area of Concern - Intermediate Groundwater
JH Baxter
Eugene, Oregon

LEGEND

- Monitoring Well
- Extraction Well
- Water Wells¹**
 - Domestic, Irrigation in Use (depth)
 - Industrial, in Use <35' (shallow)
 - Industrial, in Use >100' (deep)
 - Not in Use (residential)
 - Abandoned (residential)
- Pentachlorophenol Concentration (ug/L)**
 - 1 - <50
 - 50 - <150
 - ≥150
- All Other Features**
 - Facility Boundary
 - Locality of Facility
 - Tax Lot
 - Railroad
 - Watercourse

NOTES:

- Pentachlorophenol concentration in ug/L (microgram per liter).
- Samples taken on dates shown. Not all wells were sampled.
- Water wells and Locality of Facility from Beneficial Water Use Determination, June 28, 2002

Abbreviations:
J Estimated
< Not-Detected at concentration shown

St. Mark CME

1167 Sam Reynolds St
Eugene, Oregon

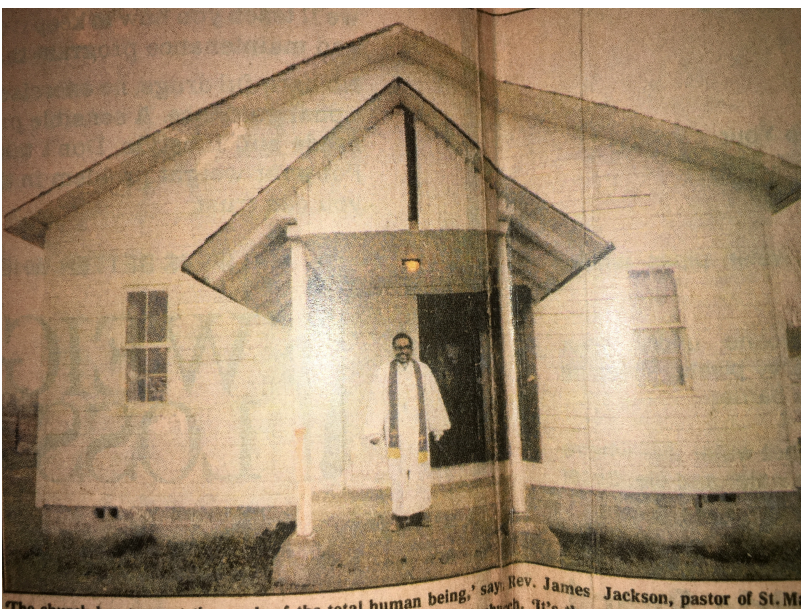
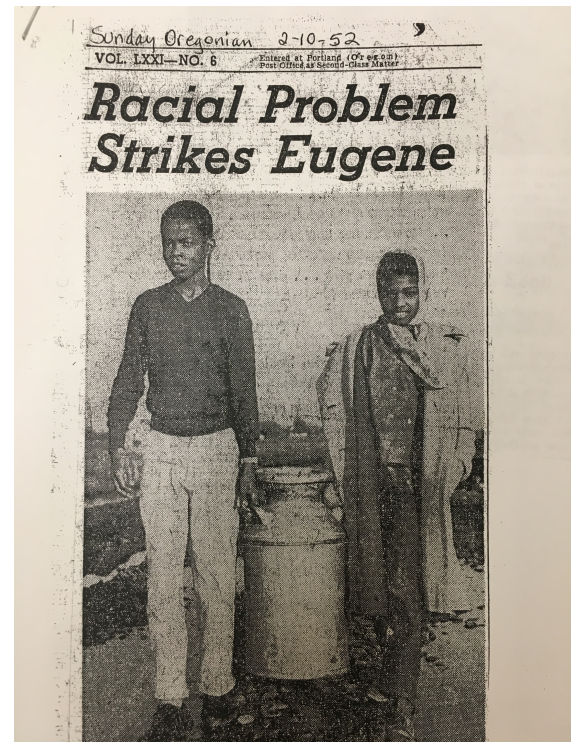


History (1951- 1952):

Kids Playing over Amazon Creek. This location at the time was three miles outside of city limit on a location where there was no sewers, was prone to flooding, and was described by some as a "dumping ground."

Displacement

This news article from 1952 describes the racial tensions in Eugene after the city expanded its city limits. Black families who had been living by the Ferry St. Bridge (Alton Baker Park) were forced to relocate to where St Mark CME still stands today. This was due to exclusionary laws that prevented Black residents from living within city limits



Resilience:

As is true around the nation, despite hateful and exclusionary policies meant to intimidate, communities still stand here as they did in this picture in the late 1950's. Reynolds family and many others are a pillar of this community. As are the Black churches and institutions who advocate for justice.

EJ BUS ROUTE

