Safe Drinking Water in the Fifth Ward

120+ GROUNDWATER WELLS MONITOR THE AREA

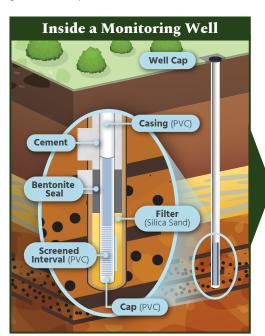
Former Houston Wood Preserving Works

Liberty Rd

For over 25 years, Union Pacific Railroad has worked to clean up and monitor groundwater within the former Houston Wood Preserving Works (HWPW) site and surrounding areas in the Fifth Ward.

The former HWPW site was a wood treatment facility owned and operated by Southern Pacific from 1911-1984. While operational, the facility treated wooden railroad ties (the rectangular "support beams" of the track) with creosote, a commonly-used chemical preservative of the time, created from wood or coal tar.

Union Pacific continues to manage cleanup at the site with federal and state oversight to determine the extent and stability of the groundwater plume.





Groundwater Plume

Over the 70 plus years of operation under Southern Pacific, railroad ties at the site were treated using creosote. Creosote and other wood treating chemicals migrated through the soil, reaching the groundwater and creating the plume. The groundwater plume is at least 24 feet below the surface offsite, and no water from the site plume is consumed or used in any manner.

Area Drinking Water

Union Pacific is committed to protecting the community from any environmental hazards. Studies have not revealed a significant pathway for the contamination to reach any residents living near the former HWPW site, and drinking water has been deemed safe by the City of Houston and EPA. The City of Houston provides drinking water to all of Fifth Ward and Kashmere Gardens. Water is predominantly sourced from Lake Livingston, Lake Conroe, Lake Houston, and Gulf Coast Aguifer wells. All residential water in the Fifth Ward and Kashmere Gardens is filtered through purification plants before reaching homesites.

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