

# Safe Drinking Water in the Fifth Ward

120+ GROUNDWATER WELLS MONITOR THE AREA

Former Houston  
Wood Preserving  
Works

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.

