

# Airco Welding Products (Also Known As: BOC Gases)

Route 2  
Chester, WV 26034  
Congressional District 1  
EPA ID #: WVD980554760  
Last Updated: 12/31/2008

## Current Progress at the Site

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This facility is one of EPA Region III's high priority RCRA corrective action sites. The former electrode manufacturing plant had two waste lagoons that were closed in 1990. The closure included excavation of the former lagoons, placement of clean fill, installation of a fence and a quarterly groundwater monitoring program. The groundwater flows from the lagoons towards the Ohio River. The groundwater monitoring determined that the groundwater had low concentrations of several VOCs from waste that was disposed of in the lagoons. With the removal of the source material, the levels of the contaminants detected during the monitoring program decreased over time as the natural movement of the groundwater flushed the aquifer. A round of groundwater sampling was completed in 1997. Analytical results from the 1997 sampling event revealed low levels of 1,1,1-trichloroethane (up to 5ug/l) and tetrachloroethene (up to 6 ug/l) in a few of the monitoring wells. Site visits have been conducted by the West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) and EPA during the past few years. In addition, an extensive file review was conducted of all previous investigative activities, including all groundwater monitoring reports. Based on the site inspections and file review, it was determined that additional groundwater sampling was needed to confirm groundwater quality at this facility. Additional groundwater samples were collected during the week of June 21, 2004. EPA and WVDEP evaluated the data and requested that BOC address the low level groundwater contamination issue. BOC applied a Hydrogen Release Compound remedial treatment at the site and conducted several rounds of groundwater sampling. The last two rounds of sampling (May and August 07) revealed that all contaminants were below MCLs. Therefore, WVDEP and EPA have decided that Corrective Action at this facility is complete and no further action other than routine maintenance of the former lagoon cap will be required. A Public Notice summarizing EPA's decision for the site was placed in a local newspaper in June 2008 and a 45-day comment period closed without comments. On-site monitoring wells were abandoned in accordance with WVDEP regulations.

## Site Description

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The former Airco Site is located in Newell, Hancock County, West Virginia. The site property is bounded on the west by the Ohio River, on the north by Mountaineer Park, which consists of a racetrack and casino/hotel complex, and on the south by Dry Run, a small stream that flows along the southern edge of the property to the Ohio River. South of Dry Run is a large gravel quarry. The eastern portion of the property contains an inactive manufacturing facility (the former Airco Welding plant). A portion of the former Airco Site was purchased by Mountaineer Park in the autumn of 2003. The western portion of the site is currently occupied by an active BOC industrial gas manufacturing plant.

Airco (now a part of BOC Gases) formerly manufactured wire electrodes for automatic welding machines at the facility. Process wastewater was discharged to two lagoons located at the site. The wastewater discharged to the lagoons was designated as K062 (spent pickle liquor) and D002 (waste exhibiting the characteristic for corrosivity). The lagoons were closed in 1990 in

accordance with State and Federal regulations. The closure included excavation of the lagoons, replacement with clean fill, fencing off the lagoon area and groundwater monitoring.

## Site Responsibility

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RCRA Corrective Action activities at this facility are being conducted under the direction of the WVDEP with assistance from the EPA.

## Contaminants

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The main contaminants in the groundwater are 1,1,1-Trichloroethane and Tetrachlorethene.

## Community Interaction

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The Airco Welding Site is bounded on the west by the Ohio River. The only residential population in the study area are a few scattered homes to the south and two trailer parks, one approximately ½ mile northeast of the facility, and one approximately one mile southeast of the facility.

## Institutional Controls

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Access to the former lagoons area is controlled by a fence with a locked gate.

## Government Contacts

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For more information about EPA's corrective action webpage, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: [www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm](http://www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm)

# Facility Contact

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