



Long-Term Stewardship Assessment Report
Messer ASU Facility (former Airco Welding Products)
EPA ID #: WVD980554760
New Cumberland, WV 26047
RCRIS CODE: CA88 (P2)
Completed by: Kenan Cetin, WVDEP

Assessment Visit Date: **October 14, 2025** Assessment Report Date: **12/26/2025**

Introduction: In EPA Region 3 and its RCRA-authorized states, a Long-Term Stewardship (LTS) or “LTS Assessment Visit” is a site inspection that combines a review of historical records with an on-site evaluation to confirm that selected remedies remain in place and functioning as intended. These visits assess whether a remediated facility continues to meet environmental protection standards by verifying that engineering controls (ECs) are properly maintained and that institutional controls (ICs) remain in effect. The LTS program periodically evaluates the long-term performance of these remedies and ensures that any required controls continue to protect human health and the environment. It also serves as a mechanism for keeping the community informed about the status of facilities addressed under the RCRA Hazardous Waste Cleanup (Corrective Action) Program.

Site Background and Environmental History:

The former **Airco Welding Products (Airco)** site, located at **610 Dry Run Road in New Cumberland**, West Virginia, occupies a tract bordered by the Ohio River to the west, Mountaineer Park to the north, and Dry Run to the south. The eastern portion contains the inactive former Airco manufacturing facility, while the western portion is currently owned by **Messer Americas** as an active air separation unit (ASU), purchased from Linde Gas in 2019. Linde Gas had purchased the property from British Oxygen Company (BOC), formerly Airco, in 2006.

Airco previously manufactured wire electrodes at the facility, generating wastewater that was discharged into two on-site lagoons. These lagoons received spent pickle liquor (K062) and corrosive waste (D002) until operations ceased in 1984. Closure began that same year, with sludge and contaminated soils removed for off-site disposal. The lagoons were then backfilled and capped in 1990. Although the lagoons were the primary environmental concern, groundwater quality became the focus after closure. Monitoring throughout the 1980s revealed volatile organic compounds above benchmark levels, leading to a 1991 state consent order requiring quarterly sampling and statistical evaluation of groundwater data.

Follow-up sampling in the 1990s and a 1997 WVDEP-approved investigation identified a single exceedance of tetrachloroethene (PCE) in one monitoring well. To address this low-level contamination, BOC, Airco’s successor, proposed and implemented an in-well treatment using Hydrogen Release Compound (HRC) in 2006. Seven subsequent sampling rounds showed declining PCE concentrations,

with the final two events in 2007 confirming levels below the Maximum Contaminant Level. With cleanup goals achieved, groundwater monitoring was concluded and the wells were abandoned in accordance with WVDEP requirements. EPA went through a public comment period with a **Statement of Basis**, proposing a final remedy on **June 12, 2028**, and subsequently issued a **Final Decision on August 13, 2028**, finalizing the remedy.

Current Site Status:

The western, industrially active portion of the facility is currently occupied and operated by **Messer America, LLC**, which purchased the property in March 2019 for operation as an air separation unit. The eastern portion of the site remains vacant and is largely covered by grass and wooded areas. In 2004, a portion of this eastern area was purchased by the Mountaineer Race Track and Gaming Resort.

As required by the EPA's August 2008 Final Decision, an Environmental Covenant (EC) was developed and recorded in August 2017. The EC established institutional controls that require ongoing maintenance of the former lagoon cover and prohibit activities in the lagoon area that could damage the cap or interfere with its maintenance. The covenant also restricts groundwater use on the property to non-potable purposes.

Long-Term Stewardship Site Visit: On October 14, 2025, WVDEP conducted an LTS assessment site visit to discuss and assess the status of the implemented remedies at the site. This was the first visit conducted at the site since August 17, 2015, which was led by EPA.

The attendees were:

Name	Organization	Email Address
Kenan Cetin	West Virginia Dept of Env. Protection (WVDEP)	kenan.cetin@wv.gov
Rich Wright	Messer Americas, LLC	Rich.Wright@messer-us.com

Institutional Controls (ICs) Status:

The EC established institutional controls that require: 1) ongoing maintenance of the former lagoon cover and prohibit activities in the lagoon area that could damage the cap or interfere with its maintenance; and 2) prohibit groundwater use on the property to non-potable purposes.

Engineering Controls (ICs) Status:

The former lagoon area on the property is capped and enclosed with a chain link locking fence.

Enforcement Method/tool for implementing institutional controls (ICs) and the Engineering Controls (ECs) required:

The Environmental Covenant that has been recorded with the deed of the property is the main enforcement tool for the implementation of the ICs and ECs.

Reporting Requirements/Compliance:

Environmental Covenant (EC) requires the property owner to submit at least one annual inspection monitoring report and to certify compliance with all applicable institutional and engineering controls.

Financial Assurance: Financial Assurance is not required for Hazardous Waste Cleanup/Corrective Action activities at the site.

Mapping: The mapping of the Facility is complete. The agencies have a geospatial PDF map showing the property boundaries (Figure 1), and the EPA's facility website map is accurate.

Conclusions and Recommendations: During this assessment visit, WVDEP observed and verified that the institutional controls and engineering controls selected for the Facility, summarized above, are implemented and remain intact and undamaged (see attached images). Furthermore, no IC deficiencies have been identified at the Facility.

Attachments:

Figure 1: Geospatial Map of former Airco parcel showing former lagoon area.

Figure 2: The former lagoon area, as seen looking southwest, with freshly moved grass surface.

Figure 3: The former lagoon area, looking south toward the fencing in its current condition.

Figure 4: An image showing the locked fence gate in the southeast corner of the former lagoon area.

Figure 5: The locked main entrance gate and fence posting with "No Trespassing" sign.



Figure 1: Geospatial Map of former Airco parcel showing former lagoon area.



Figure 2: The former lagoon area, as seen looking southwest, with freshly mowed grass surface.



Figure 3: Inside the former lagoon area, looking south toward the fencing in its current condition.



Figure 4: An image showing the locked fence gate in the southeast corner of the former lagoon area.



Figure 5: The locked main entrance gate and fence posting with “No Trespassing” sign.