



Long-Term Stewardship Assessment Report
**Newell Polymers (former NewChem and Thiokol Specialty
Chemical Division)**

EPA ID #: WVD074968413

New Cumberland, WV 26047

RCRIS CODE: CA88 N2

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Assessment Visit Date: October 23, 2025 **Assessment Report Date:** March 4, 2026

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.

Facility Background and Environmental History: The Facility is located at 7743 Ohio River Boulevard, New Cumberland WV, 26047 in Hancock County, approximately 3.5 miles southwest of Newell, West Virginia, adjacent to West Virginia State Route 2. The Facility comprises 13.71 acres, approximately six acres of which comprise the manufacturing portion of the Facility. The remainder of the Facility is wooded. The manufacturing portion of the Facility consists of a production area that is gated and fenced and a drum storage area located west of the production area, also gated and fenced. The Facility area is relatively flat with a steep hillside at the western edge of the property that leads down to a gravel quarry and ponds remaining from quarrying operations. The Ohio River is located approximately 0.5 mile west of the Facility. North of the Facility property is Dry Run, a tributary of the Ohio River. An industrial complex housing Marsh Bellofram Corporation, BelGas and ATC Diversified Electronics is located north of Dry Run. Marsh Bellofram is a manufacturer of air regulators, electro-pneumatic transducers, air cylinders, diaphragm seals, gauges, and thermometers. Immediately east of the Facility is State Route 2, which provides access to the Facility. South of the property is wooded land, owned by the Mountaineer Race Track and Gaming Resort (MTR).

Industrial activity at the Facility began in 1956 when Koppers Company constructed a plant to manufacture coal-tar derivatives. The property changed ownership several times: Custom Chemicals acquired it in 1966 and converted operations to specialty chemical production; Antox, Inc. purchased it

in 1969; General Investors, Inc. in 1974; and Southwest Specialty Chemicals, Inc. in 1979. Since the mid-1960s, the Facility has produced only organic chemicals.

In 1979, the Thiokol-Specialty Chemicals Division (TSCD), a subsidiary of Southwest Specialty Chemicals, began operating the plant. TSCD retrofitted the Facility for herbicide manufacturing and, beginning in November 1980, operated as a hazardous waste management facility. WVDEP inspections documented poor waste management practices, including leaking drums and stained soils. TSCD ceased operations in 1982 following its merger into Morton Thiokol, Inc., which continued operating the Facility for two years. WVDEP inspections during this period again identified inadequate waste handling.

Newell Specialty Chemicals, Inc. purchased the Facility in 1984. During Newell's operation, EPA and WVDEP cited multiple RCRA violations related to drum labeling and storage. Newell filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 1993 and converted to Chapter 7 liquidation in 1996. From 1993 to 1996, EPA conducted CERCLA emergency response actions, removing approximately 1,980 drums—about 200 of which were leaking—and an estimated 100 cubic yards of contaminated materials. WVDEP issued a Cease and Desist Order in 1996, and a bankruptcy trustee assumed control.

In 1997, investors formed NewChem, Inc. and purchased the Facility, assuming all environmental liabilities. NewChem operated as a specialty chemical manufacturer providing custom chemical production, solvent recovery, and powder biocide manufacturing. In 2002, at the request of WVDEP, EPA issued a Consent Order requiring a site-wide investigation and interim measures. In 2003, groundwater samples collected during the Remedial Facility Investigation (RFI) revealed the occurrence of TCE in three monitoring wells located on the southwest corner of the Facility property. EPA later reviewed data collected by NewChem as part of the Consent Order, along with data from investigation report generated by a 2006 CERCLA Listing Site Investigation conducted by WVDEP. All of these data were reviewed by EPA, which issued a Final Remedy Decision on November 29, 2011, which consists of the implementation of enhanced anaerobic bioremediation through the introduction of a non-toxic compound into groundwater at select monitoring well locations at the Facility in order to accelerate the treatment process for the removal of groundwater contamination, the verification of the effectiveness of the treatment through groundwater monitoring and Facility-wide ICs.

By 2015, Deltech Resins seemed to have taken over the operations and the ownership of the property.

An Environmental Covenant (EC), pursuant to the West Virginia Environmental Covenants Act, was developed and recorded on October 21, 2019, as an implementation mechanism for ICs at the Facility.

Current Site Status: NewChem had reportedly ceased their operations between late spring and early summer of 2019 and subsequently was shut down sometime after recording of the environmental covenant in late October 2019. The Facility is currently owned and operated by Newell Polymers, a member of Polyrho Group. Newell Polymers performs manufacturing of long-, medium- and short-alkyd resins and solution acrylics, with plans to expand into additional specialty chemicals. Newell Polymers acquired the assets of NewChem, Inc. from Deltech Resins in February 2023. Following necessary investments to safely recertify the Facility, Newell Polymers commenced production of commercial quantities of alkyd resins in December 2023.

Long-Term Stewardship Site Visit: On October 23, 2025, WVDEP conducted an LTS assessment site visit with representatives of the new owner Newell Polymers and their consultant to discuss the status of the implemented remedies at the site. This is the first LTS visit to the site since the March 14, 2019 visit, which was led by EPA.

The attendees were:

| Name | Organization | Email Address |
|---------------|--|----------------------|
| Kenan Cetin | West Virginia Dept. of Env. Protection | Kenan.Cetin@wv.gov |
| Dennis Cooper | Newell Polymers, Inc. (Polyrheo) | dcooper@polyrheo.com |
| Ryan Fall | Newell Polymers, Inc. (Polyrheo) | Rfall@polyrheo.com |
| Kyle Casto | Ascent Consulting & Engineering, LLC | KCasto@ascentwv.com |

Institutional Controls (ICs) Status: There are three ICs established at the facility property with the October 2019 Environmental Covenant.

Land Use Restriction: The Property shall not be used for any purpose other than industrial. There were no residential structures or uses of the site at the time of the visit. Newell Polymers is currently in compliance with the land use restrictions.

Groundwater Use Restriction: Use of groundwater beneath the Facility for potable purposes or any other use that could result in human exposure is prohibited. Currently, the tap water at the facility is non potable groundwater with proper signage posted to inform the facility workers (Figure 2). The Facility is anticipating to be connected the potable city water served by the local water utility in the spring of 2026.

Well Installation Restriction: Well drilling at the Property without prior approval from WVDEP, to prevent inadvertent exposure to the contaminated groundwater and adverse effects to the final remedy, is prohibited. There were no reported new wells or no signs of well drilling apparent during the site visit.

Engineering Controls (ECs) Status: The primary Engineering Control (EC) required under the EPA's Final Decision for the Facility is the control of contaminant source by enhanced anaerobic bioremediation of groundwater, supported by performance monitoring until the target Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) is attained.

Enhanced Anaerobic Bioremediation and Groundwater Performance Monitoring: Groundwater generally flows west to southwest towards the Ohio River. Monitoring is conducted at eight (8) monitoring wells on a quarterly basis. The primary constituent of concern is Trichloroethylene (TCE), detected in the shallow unconsolidated aquifer. One well, MW-MP6, has consistently shown TCE concentrations above EPA's MCL of 5 ug/L.

In accordance with the Final Remedy Decision, NewChem implemented two rounds of injection-based remediation: the first in August 2013 and the second in November 2016.

- **2013 Injection Event:** Regenesi[®] 3-D Microemulsion[®] was injected at MW-MP6. Monitoring results showed no meaningful reduction in TCE concentrations, and groundwater chemistry did not shift in a manner consistent with enhanced anaerobic bioremediation.
- **2016 Injection Event:** Regenesi[®] PlumeStop[®] was injected approximately 40 feet upgradient of MW-MP6 at seven points spaced 10 feet apart in a linear configuration roughly perpendicular to groundwater flow. Following this injection, TCE concentrations exhibited immediate decrease; however, levels subsequently rebounded, fluctuating between non-detect and approximately 50 µg/L.

In 2020, the most recent year in which monitoring results submitted by NewChem, TCE concentrations in MW-MP6 were 4.63 µg/L in June and 30.9 µg/L in September.

Most recent monitoring data suggests that TCE concentrations at MW-MP6 exhibit seasonal variability, likely driven by groundwater elevation fluctuations and the periodic flushing of residual TCE from the lower vadose zone. At present, groundwater management remains in a “monitor-and-report” status.

Enforcement Method/tool for implementing institutional controls required:

The May 2002 EPA Administrative Order on Consent (Docket No. RCRA-03-2002-0010) remains in effect and is the principal enforcement tool for implementation of the Final Remedy Decision (FDRTC), issued on September 9, 2012. The Environmental Covenant recorded on October, 21, 2019 is the tool for implementation of the Institutional Controls applicable to the facility property.

Reporting Requirements/Compliance:

Based on the decision documents issued to NewChem Inc. and the recent facility records, the new owner Newell Polymers is currently subject to three reporting requirements:

1. Continue monitoring and reporting TCE concentrations until the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) is achieved at all monitoring wells, specifically MW-MP6.
2. Submit copies of all quarterly groundwater monitoring reports required under the current NPDES permit to both the EPA and WVDEP. This follows a September 25, 2019, directive from John Hopkins (EPA) to NewChem representatives.
3. Submit an annual inspection report confirming and certifying that Environmental Covenant restrictions required by the Final Remedy Decision are being implemented at the Facility.

During the facility shutdown from approximately November 2019 to February 2023, NewChem appears to have been noncompliant with all three reporting activities listed above.

Financial Assurance: The Final Decision document states that EPA will require NewChem to provide assurances of financial responsibility for completing the Final Remedy. However, according to the Financial Assurance (FA) insurance information entered into the RCRAinfo system, no cost estimate, thus no financial assurance is no longer required for the facility. There is no reference to any FA obligations in the 2019 LTS report, which is consistent with the Final Remedy Decision document.

Mapping: The mapping of the Facility is complete. The EPA Facility website map is accurate and the website includes a geospatial PDF map showing surveyed boundaries of all the use restriction areas.

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The Long-Term Stewardship (LTS) assessment conducted on October 23, 2025 confirms that the facility has transitioned to new ownership under Newell Polymers. While the current industrial land use remains consistent with the 2019 Environmental Covenant, significant administrative and remedial challenges persist.

The primary area of concern is Reporting Requirements and Compliance. During the operational shutdown from November 2019 to February 2023, the facility became non-compliant with all three mandatory reporting activities: quarterly TCE concentration reporting, the submission of NPDES monitoring reports to WVDEP and EPA, and the filing of annual Environmental Covenant (EC) Inspection Reports certifying compliance.

Recommendations:

- Newell Polymers must start copying NPDES Groundwater Monitoring Reports to both Hazardous Waste Clean (formerly Corrective Action) Programs at WVDEP and EPA.
- Newell Polymers must submit, starting in 2026, Annual Environmental Inspection Reports certifying that all restrictions are being implemented and complied with.

Regarding Engineering Controls, historical data indicates that Trichloroethylene (TCE) concentrations at well MW-MP6 remain unstable and frequently exceed the 5 µg/L MCL despite previous injection events. The future status of monitoring at MW-MP6 will be determined based on a comprehensive review of the historical record, NPDES reports from the past few years, and upcoming monitoring data.

Attachments:

Figure 1: Geospatial map of Newell Polymers (formerly NewChem, Inc.) facility.

Figure 2: Groundwater use in the facility is limited to non-potable with signs posted accordingly.

Figure 3: Main office building of the facility as seen from the car parking lot.

Figure 4: Image of the well MW-8 as seen during the site walk.

Figure 5: Image of the well MW-2D as seen during the site walk.

Figure 6: Image of the well MW-4 as seen during the site walk.

Figure 7: Image of the well MW-MP6 as seen during the site walk.



NewChem
Formerly: Thiokol Speciality Chemical
State Rte. 2
Newell, WV 26050

Facility Boundary

Figure 1: Geospatial map of Newell Polymers (formerly NewChem, Inc.) facility.



Figure 2: Groundwater use in the facility is limited to non-potable with signs posted accordingly.



Figure 3: Main office building of the facility as seen from the car parking lot.



Figure 4: Image of the well MW-8 as seen during the site walk.



Figure 5: Image of the well MW-2D as seen during the site walk.



Figure 6: Image of the well MW-4 as seen during the site walk.



Figure 7: Image of the well MW-MP6 as seen during the site walk.