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14 November 2000

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Mr. Gary McDannell  
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers--Buffalo District  
 1776 Niagara Street  
 Buffalo, New York 14207

RE: AIRCO, Inc. Witmer Road Landfill Closure (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
 Project No. 2000-01556)  
 EA Project No. 12040.33

Dear Mr. McDannell:

EA Engineering P.C., and its affiliate EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, as consultants to BOC Gases, have completed construction activities for closure of the AIRCO, Inc. Witmer Road Landfill. A Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) was submitted on 12 May 2000 under Nationwide Permit 38—Cleanup of Toxic and Hazardous Waste; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers--Buffalo District assigned this action Project No. 2000-01556. This closure action was performed under a Consent Order signed with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The purpose of this letter is to certify that the closure has now been completed consistent with the Final Design Plans and engineering drawings summarized and submitted with the PCN.

This closure consisted of regrading and consolidation of waste material deposited at the site, followed by installation of a geomembrane cap, a new perimeter road, and a new perimeter drainage swale. To the extent possible, impacts to onsite (0.5 acres) and offsite (0.5 acres) wetlands were minimized during construction. A general stormwater permit for industrial and construction activities was filed with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Silt fencing was installed and other erosion control best management practices were observed to minimize transport and deposition of soil to offsite emergent and scrub/shrub wetlands; in fact, no significant rain events occurred during the period of construction. As described in the PCN, this work entailed removal and regrading of approximately 1,700 ft (0.5 acres) of an existing linear drainage swale that ran along the southeast, south, and southwest sides of the landfill. The vegetation in this swale was dominated by the common reed, *Phragmites*. Subsequent to regrading of the site and installation of the cap, a new drainage swale was completed around the entire landfill. A second swale was constructed on the adjacent Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation property to redirect offsite runoff away from and around the southeast corner of the completed closure on the AIRCO, Inc. property. At this time, *Phragmites* has become re-established in the portions of the new drainage swale that replaced the original swale at the site. *Phragmites* has also begun to re-establish itself where the offsite drainage swale

was cut through a scrub/shrub and *Phragmites* wetland. The current status of the impacted wetland areas is photographically documented relative to pre-closure conditions in Attachment A.

The owner of the property, BOC Gases, who implemented this closure under the Consent Order, can be reached as follows:

Mr. Mike Resh  
BOC Gases  
100 Mountain Avenue  
Murray Hill, New Jersey 07974  
(908) 771-1452

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Manager for this project is:

Mr. Michael Hinton, P.E.  
Division of Hazardous Waste Remediation  
New York Department of Environmental Conservation  
270 Michigan Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14203

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Charles McLeod, P.E. or Paul Muessig at (845) 565-8100.


Sincerely yours,

EA ENGINEERING, P.C.



David S. Santoro, P.E., L.S.  
President

EA ENGINEERING, SCIENCE,  
AND TECHNOLOGY



Charles E. McLeod, Jr., P.E.  
Project Manager

CEM/caw  
Attachments

cc: M. Resh, BOC Gases  
M. Hinton, NYSDEC

**Attachment A**

**Photographs**



Photo 1. Pre-closure view where drainage from *Phragmites*-dominated emergent wetland on NMPC property crossed east fence line into swale on AIRCO property.



Photo 2. View south at same *Phragmites*-dominated emergent wetland following regrading and installation of cap, perimeter road, and drainage swale.





Photo 1. Pre-closure view where drainage from *Phragmites*-dominated emergent wetland on NMPC property crossed east fence line into swale on AIRCO property.



Photo 2. View south at same *Phragmites*-dominated emergent wetland following regrading and installation of cap, perimeter road, and drainage swale.



Photo 3. Pre-closure view toward south; *Phragmites*-dominated emergent wetland on NMPC property to left of fence, old drainage swale to right.



Photo 4. View south along new perimeter road; swale and *Phragmites*-dominated emergent wetland to left in background; landfill cap and erosion fence to right.



Photo 5. Pre-closure view northeast toward *Phragmites*-dominated emergent wetland on NMPC property from previous closure on AIRCO property.



Photo 6. View north along new perimeter road toward *Phragmites*-dominated emergent wetland near east side of AIRCO property; new drainage swale to right.





Photo 7. Pre-closure view west along drainage swale at south fence line near old entrance gate onto AIRCO property.



Photo 8. Post-closure view west along drainage swale near location of old south fence line; *Phragmites* becoming re-established in swale following regrading.



Photo 9. Pre-closure view east at seep along drainage swale at south fence line on AIRCO property.



Photo 10. View west along new perimeter road and drainage swale at same location as Photo 9 above; *Phragmites* re-established in drainage swale.



Photo 11. Pre-closure view from top of landfill east along old road and drainage swale at south fence line on AIRCO property.



Photo 12. Post-closure view from top of landfill east along new perimeter road and drainage swale at south fence line on AIRCO property.





Photo 13. Pre-closure view south along new drainage swale at southwest fence line of AIRCO property.



Photo 14. Post-closure view south along new drainage swale at southwest fence line of AIRCO property.



Photo 15. Pre-closure view west along new drainage swale at southwest fence line of AIRCO property.



Photo 16. Post-closure view west along new drainage swale at southwest fence line of AIRCO property.