Docket #3248 Date Filed: 07/27/2026

FILED & JUDGMENT ENTERED
Christine F. Ramsey
July 27 2026
Clerk, U.S. Bankruptcy Court
Western District of North Carolina

Lena M James
United States Bankruptcy Judge

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE DIVISION

In re	)	Chapter 11
Aldrich Pump LLC, et. al.,[1]	)	Case No. 20-30608 (LMJ)
Debtors.	)	(Jointly Administered)

ORDER

THIS MATTER comes before the Court on the Debtors' Motion in Limine to Exclude Ground-Up Estimate for Non-Mesothelioma Claims. [Dkt. No. 3184] (the "Motion"). The Official Committee of Asbestos Personal Injury Claimants (the "ACC") filed an Objection to the Motion [Dkt. No. 3222], while the Future Claimants' Representative (the "FCR") and Trane Technologies Company LLC and Trane U.S. Inc. (collectively, the "Non-Debtor Affiliates") filed joinders in support of the Motion. [Dkt. Nos. 3218, 3228]. The Court heard arguments on the Motion and the responses at the omnibus hearing held on July 23, 2026.

Through the Motion, the Debtors seek an order precluding any party from introducing, or relying upon, the "ground-up" estimate of the Debtors' liability for non-mesothelioma claims provided by Dr. Andrew Sackett of Legal Analysis Systems, the expert for the ACC. In response, the ACC contends that, because there

[1] The Debtors are the following entities (the last four digits of Debtors' taxpayer identification follow in parenthesis) Aldrich Pump LLC (2290) (hereinafter, "Aldrich") and Murray Boiler LLC (0679) (hereinafter, "Murray"). The Debtors' address is 800-E. Beaty Street, Davidson, North Carolina 28036.

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was no agreed upon method for determining the value of non-mesothelioma claims and the Court has not yet provided one, Dr. Sackett's approach—incorporating the inflation-adjusted settlement values for non-mesothelioma claims over a three-year calibration period—is a sound and appropriate basis to do so.

The Order Authorizing Estimation of Asbestos Claims, which was entered in the early stages of this case in 2022, provides that

> Pursuant to section 502(c) of the Bankruptcy Code, the Court shall estimate the Debtors' aggregate liability for all current and future asbestos personal injury claims, which shall include an estimation of mesothelioma claims plus the application of an agreed upon calculation for non-mesothelioma claims. Should the parties not be able to agree on a formula for the calculation of the non-mesothelioma claims, the parties may submit proposals and the Court will determine the formula.

[Dkt. No. 127, the "Estimation Order"]. The Second Amended Case Management Order for Estimation of Asbestos Claims, entered in April 2025, further provided that "the Debtors and ACC shall exchange their initial expert reports setting forth their estimate of the Debtors' liability for current and future mesothelioma claims, plus the application of a 'gross-up' for non-mesothelioma claims (each, an 'Initial Expert Report') on or before September 15, 2025." [Dkt. No. 2656]. This requirement to submit a "gross-up" of non-mesothelioma claims, applicable only to the parties' exchange of initial expert reports, did not supersede the language and procedures provided in the Estimation Order, which remains the operative order for purposes of Phase I and Phase II of estimation.

The Estimation Order does not provide for an independent or separate estimation of non-mesothelioma claims; rather, it clearly envisions a "formula" that is then "appli[ed]" to the estimate of mesothelioma claims. [Dkt. No. 127]. The use of a simple formula, based on the historical ratio of mesothelioma claims to non-mesothelioma claims, is common practice in this district and is not the subject of expert-intensive litigation. *See In re Bestwall LLC*, No. 17-31795, Dkt. 1577 (Bankr. W.D.N.C. Jan. 19, 2021) and *In re DBMP LLC*, No. 20-30080, Dkt. 1239 (Bankr. W.D.N.C. Nov. 29, 2021). Dr. Sackett's independent analysis of non-mesothelioma

claims, rather than using a "gross up" or multiplier, is therefore beyond the scope of the Estimation Order and irrelevant to the estimation trial. As such, the Court will grant the Motion and exclude Dr. Sackett's opinion and proposed testimony regarding his independent analysis of the Debtors' liability for current and future non-mesothelioma claims.[2]

In reviewing the Motion and responses, it is also apparent that the parties are unable to agree on the formula for calculating non-mesothelioma claims. The Estimation Order, however, does not envision the use of motions or an evidentiary hearing to resolve that dispute. Rather, it allows for an informal and modest process to determine the appropriate formula. To that end, the parties are directed to "submit proposals" following the Phase I estimation trial, upon which the Court will determine the formula in accordance with the Estimation Order.

For the foregoing reasons, as well as those stated on the record at the hearing held on July 23, 2026, the Court hereby ORDERS that:

1. The Motion is GRANTED as set forth herein.
2. On or before August 21, 2026, the Debtors, the ACC, and the FCR shall submit either (a) an agreed upon calculation for non-mesothelioma claims, OR (b) their individual proposals for a formula to calculate the non-mesothelioma claims.
3. This Court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction over this Order and any and all matters arising from or relating to the implementation, interpretation, or enforcement of this Order.

SO ORDERED.

This Order has been signed electronically. The Judge's signature and Court's seal appear at the top of the Order.

United States Bankruptcy Court

[2] The Motion is granted specifically as to Dr. Sackett's opinion and proposed testimony, but the Court will further advise the parties that any expert testimony on the appropriate formula for calculation of non-mesothelioma claims will be excluded from the Phase 1 estimation trial.