

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
April 16, 2020

Humphrey Farms (Property Identification)	
Number 07-02-35-300-002),)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	PCB 20-57
)	(Tax Certification - Water)
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)	
PROTECTION AGENCY,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by B.F. Currie):

On March 3, 2020, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) filed a recommendation that the Board certify specified facilities of Humphrey Farms as “pollution control facilities” for preferential tax treatment under the Property Tax Code. *See* 35 ILCS 200/11-5 *et seq.* (2018); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125. Humphrey Farms’ swine nursery confinement is located at 1843 Mt. Union Road in Dixon, Lee County. In this order, the Board describes the legal framework for tax certifications, discusses the Agency’s recommendation, and certifies that Humphrey Farms’ identified manure management structures are pollution control facilities.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Under the Property Tax Code, “[i]t is the policy of this State that pollution control facilities should be valued, at 33 1/3% of the fair cash value of their economic productivity to their owners.” 35 ILCS 200/11-5 (2018); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.200(a)(2). “For tax purposes, pollution control facilities shall be certified as such by the Pollution Control Board and shall be assessed by the Department [of Revenue].” 35 ILCS 200/11-20 (2018); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.200(a). Under the statute, the Board determines if the facilities are pollution control facilities; however, the Board is not authorized to assess a value of those facilities.

Under Section 125.202 of the Board’s procedural rules, a person may submit an application for tax certification to the Agency. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.202. If the Agency receives a tax certification application, the Agency must file with the Board a recommendation on the application, unless the applicant withdraws the application. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.204(a). Among other things, the Agency’s filing must recommend that the Board issue or deny tax certification. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.204(a)(4). If the Board finds “that the claimed facility or relevant portion thereof is a pollution control facility . . . , the Pollution Control Board . . . shall enter a finding and issue a certificate to that effect.” 35 ILCS 200/11-25 (2018); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.216(a).

AGENCY RECOMMENDATION

The Agency states that it received a tax certification application from Humphrey Farms on November 18, 2019.¹ Rec. at 1. On March 3, 2020, the Agency filed a recommendation with the Board, attaching Humphrey Farms' application (Rec. Exh. A). The Agency's recommendation identifies the facilities at issue:

One (1) steel reinforced concrete livestock waste pit measuring 173 ft. (length) x 101.83 ft. (width) x 8 ft. (depth) including eight (8) external reinforced concrete pump out pits each measuring approximately 6 ft. (length) x 6 ft. (width) x 8.83 ft. (depth), all reinforced concrete divider walls, columns, precast concrete floor beams, plastic floor slats, and approximately 620 linear feet of 4 inch diameter PVC perimeter drain pipe that are shown in the construction plans describing the facility that was provided with the application. *Id.* at 1.

The Agency recommends that the Board certify that the manure management facilities are pollution control facilities] as defined in Section 11-10 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/11-10 (2018)) with the "primary purpose of eliminating, preventing, or reducing water pollution." Rec. at 2; *see also* Rec., Agency Technical Memorandum.

TAX CERTIFICATE

Based upon the Agency's recommendation, Humphrey Farms' application, and the Board's technical review, the Board finds and certifies that Humphrey Farms' manure management facilities identified in this order are pollution control facilities under the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/11-10 (2018)). The Board makes no finding regarding the assessed value of [that facility/those facilities]. Under Section 11-25 of the Property Tax Code, the effective date of this certificate is "the date of application for the certificate or the date of the construction of the facility, which ever is later." 35 ILCS 200/11-25 (2018); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.216(a). Section 125.216(d) of the Board's procedural rules states that the Clerk "will provide the applicant and the Agency with a copy of the Board's order setting forth *the Board's findings and certificate, if any.*" 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.216(d) (quoting in italics 35 ILCS 200/11-30 (2018)). The Clerk therefore will provide Humphrey Farms and the Agency with a copy of this order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Section 11-60 of the Property Tax Code provides that any applicant or holder aggrieved by the issuance, refusal to issue, denial, revocation, modification or restriction of a pollution control certificate or a low sulfur dioxide emission coal fueled device certificate may appeal the Board's finding and order to the Circuit Court under the Administrative Review Law (735 ILCS 5/3-101 *et seq.* (2018)). *See* 35 ILCS 200/11-60 (2018). Filing a motion asking that the Board reconsider this final order is not a prerequisite to appealing the order. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.902.

¹ The Agency's recommendation is cited as "Rec. at _."

Names and Addresses for Receiving Service of Any Appeal Filed with the Circuit Court	
Parties	Board
Humphrey Farms Rick Humphrey 1556 RT 52 Dixon, IL 61021 Rhumphrey2001@yahoo.com	Illinois Pollution Control Board Attn: Don A. Brown, Clerk James R. Thompson Center 100 West Randolph Street, Suite 11-500 Chicago, Illinois 60601
Jacob H. Smith Assistant Counsel Illinois Environmental Protection Agency 1021 North Grand Ave. E. Springfield, IL 62794-9276	

I, Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on April 16, 2020 by a vote of 4-0.



Don A. Brown, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board