

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

March 18, 2004

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	AC 04-35
v.	)	(Montgomery County No. 2003-03-AC)
	)	(Administrative Citation)
LANCE and CHRISTINE VERNISH,	)	
	)	
Respondents.	)	

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by J.P. Novak):

On January 23, 2004, the County of Montgomery timely filed an administrative citation against Lance and Christine Vernish. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31.1(c) (2002); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.202(c). The County of Montgomery alleged that Lance and Christine Vernish violated Section 21(p)(1) and (p)(7) of the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5/21(p)(1) and (p)(7) (2002)). The County of Montgomery further alleges that Lance and Christine Vernish violated these provisions by causing or allowing the open dumping of waste in a manner that resulted in (1) litter and (2) deposition of general construction or demolition debris or clean construction or demolition debris at lots 27 and 28 in Canady's Addition to Hillsboro, in Montgomery County.

As required, the County of Montgomery served the administrative citation on Lance and Christine Vernish within "60 days after the date of the observed violation." 415 ILCS 5/31.1(b) (2002); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.202(b). To contest an administrative citation, a respondent must file a petition with the Board no later than 35 days after being served with the administrative citation. If the respondent fails to do so, the Board must find that the respondent committed the violations alleged and impose the corresponding civil penalty. 415 ILCS 31.1(d)(1) (2002); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.204(b), 108.406. Here, Lance and Christine Vernish failed to timely file a petition. Accordingly, the Board finds that Lance and Christine Vernish violated Section 21(p) of the Act.

The civil penalty for violating Section 21(p) is \$1,500 for a first offense and \$3,000 for a second or subsequent offense. 415 ILCS 5/42(b)(4-5) (2002); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.500(a). Because there are two violations of Section 21(p) and these violations are first offenses, the total civil penalty is \$3,000. Under Section 31.1(d)(1) of the Act, the Board attaches the administrative citation and makes it part of the order below.

This opinion constitutes the Board's finding of fact and conclusions of law.

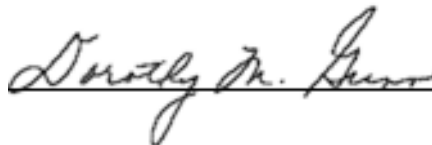
**ORDER**

1. Lance and Christine Vernish must pay a civil penalty of \$3,000 no later than April 17, 2004, which is the 30th day after the date of this order.
2. Lance and Christine Vernish must pay the civil penalty by certified check or money order, made payable to the Illinois Environmental Protection Trust Fund. The case number, case name, and Lance and Christine Vernish's social security number or federal employer identification number must be included on the certified check or money order.
3. Lance and Christine Vernish must send the certified check or money order and the remittance form to:  
  
Christine Daniels, County Coordinator  
Montgomery County Services  
P.O. Box 122  
Hillsboro, Illinois 62049
4. Penalties unpaid within the time prescribed will accrue interest under Section 42(g) of the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/42(g) (2002)) at the rate set forth in Section 1003(a) of the Illinois Income Tax Act (35 ILCS 5/1003(a) (2002)).
5. Payment of this penalty does not prevent future prosecution if the violations continue.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Section 41(a) of the Environmental Protection Act provides that final Board orders may be appealed directly to the Illinois Appellate Court within 35 days after the Board serves the order. 415 ILCS 5/41(a) (2002); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(d)(2), 101.906, 102.706. Illinois Supreme Court Rule 335 establishes filing requirements that apply when the Illinois Appellate Court, by statute, directly reviews administrative orders. 172 Ill. 2d R. 335. The Board's procedural rules provide that motions for the Board to reconsider or modify its final orders may be filed with the Board within 35 days after the order is received. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.520; *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.902, 102.700, 102.702.

I, Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above opinion and order on March 18, 2004, by a vote of 5-0.



Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board