ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD January 5, 2012

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)	
Complainant,)	
v.)	PCB 12-01
HOOPESTON FOODS, INC., a Delaware)	(Enforcement - Water)
corporation,)	
Respondent.)	

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by T.A. Holbrook):

On July 1, 2011, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People), filed a two-count complaint against Hoopeston Foods, Inc. (Hoopeston). The complaint concerns Hoopeston's bean canning facility located at 215 W. Washington Street, Hoopeston, Vermilion County. The parties now seek to settle without a hearing. For the reasons below, the Board accepts the parties' stipulation and proposed settlement.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5 (2010)), the Attorney General and the State's Attorney may bring actions before the Board to enforce Illinois' environmental requirements on behalf of the People. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31 (2010); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103. In this case, the People allege that Hoopeston violated Sections 12(a) and (f) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/12(a), (f) (2010)) and Sections 309.102(a) and 305.102(b) of the Board's water pollution regulations (35 Ill. Adm. Code 309.102(a), 305.102(b)) by: 1) continuing to discharge cooling water into an unnamed tributary of the North Fork of the Vermilion River following the expiration of NPDES Permit IL0022250, 2) causing, threatening, or allowing the discharge of cooling water without a permit so as to violate Board regulations and Standard Condition 2 of Hoopeston's NPDES Permit, 3) failing to sample and record monitoring results on Discharge Monitoring Report forms each month from May 2005 to December 2009, and 4) causing, threatening, or allowing the discharge of cooling water into the unnamed tributary in violation of Special Condition 7 of Hoopeston's NPDES Permit.

On July 1, 2011, the People and Hoopeston filed a stipulation and proposed settlement accompanied by a request for relief from the hearing requirement of Section 31(c)(1) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/31(c)(1) (2010)). This filing is authorized by Section 31(c)(2) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2010)), which requires that the public have an opportunity to request a hearing whenever the State and a respondent propose settling an enforcement action without a public hearing. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.300(a). Under the proposed stipulation, Hoopeston does not affirmatively admit the alleged violations and agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$28,500.00. The Board provided notice of the

stipulation, proposed settlement, and request for relief. The newspaper notice was published in the *Hoopeston Chronicle* on November 23, 2011. The Board did not receive any request for hearing. The Board grants the parties' request for relief from the hearing requirement. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2010); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.300(b).

Section 103.302 of the Board's procedural rules sets forth the required contents of stipulations and proposed settlements. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.302. These requirements include stipulating to facts on the nature, extent, and causes of the alleged violations and the nature of the respondents' operations. Section 103.302 also requires that the parties stipulate to facts called for by Section 33(c) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/33(c) (2010)). The People and the respondent have satisfied Section 103.302. Hoopeston does not affirmatively admit the alleged violations and agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$28,500.00. The Board accepts the stipulation and proposed settlement.

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

ORDER

- 1. The Board accepts and incorporates by reference the stipulation and proposed settlement.
- 2. Hoopeston must each pay a civil penalty of \$28,500.00 by February 6, 2012, which is the first business day following the 30th day after the date of this order. The respondent must pay the civil penalties by certified check or money order, payable to the Environmental Protection Trust Fund. The case number, case name, and respondent's social security number or federal employer identification number must be included on the certified check or money order.
- 3. Hoopeston must send the certified check or money order to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Fiscal Services Division 1021 North Grand Avenue East P.O. Box 19276 Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Hoopeston must send a copy of the certified check or money order, and any transmittal letter to:

Environmental Bureau Illinois Attorney General's Office 500 South Second Street Springfield, Illinois 62706

- 4. Penalties unpaid within the time prescribed will accrue interest under Section 42(g) of the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/42(g) (2010)) at the rate set forth in Section 1003(a) of the Illinois Income Tax Act (35 ILCS 5/1003(a) (2010)).
- 5. The respondent must cease and desist from the violations.

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) (2010); *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, John T. Therriault, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above opinion and order on January 5, 2012, by a vote of 5-0.

John T. Sherrian

John T. Therriault, Clerk Illinois Pollution Control Board