

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

July 24, 2014

CHRISTENSEN SWINE - Sheffield)	
(Property Identification Number)	
07-26-400-001),)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	PCB 15-9
)	(Tax Certification – Water)
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)	
PROTECTION AGENCY,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by D. Glosser):

On July 15, 2014, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) filed a recommendation that the Board certify certain facilities of Christensen Swine-Sheffield (Christensen) as “pollution control facilities” for preferential tax treatment under the Property Tax Code. See 35 ILCS 200/11-5 et seq. (2012); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125. Christensen’s livestock waste management facilities are located at Section 26, T17N, R6E of 4th PM in Bureau County. In this order, the Board describes the legal framework for tax certifications, discusses the Agency’s recommendation, and certifies that Christensen’s 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 (2012); 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 (2012); 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 (2012); see also 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.216(a).

AGENCY RECOMMENDATION

The Agency states that it received a tax certification application from Christensen on December 17, 2013.¹ Rec. at 1. On July 15, 2014, the Agency filed a recommendation with the Board, attaching Christensen's application. The Agency's recommendation identifies the facilities at issue:

Livestock waste management facilities consisting of one concrete manure pit (approximately 277 ft. x 71.16 ft. x 10 ft. deep) with 6 concrete manure pump out pits (approximately 6 ft. x. 6 ft. x 11 ft. each) and the portion of concrete slotted flooring over the manure pit; once concrete manure pit (approximately 96 ft. x 50 ft. x 8 ft. deep) with 10 PVC tubes for manure pump out and the portion of concrete slotted flooring over the manure pit. *Id.*

The Agency further describes the facilities: "used to collect, transport and/or store livestock wastes prior to cropland application." Rec. at 1.

The Agency recommends that the Board certify that the facilities recommended for certification are pollution control facilities as defined in Section 11-10 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/11-10 (2012)) 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 and Christensen's application, the Board finds and certifies that Christensen's facilities recommended for certification identified in this order are pollution control facilities under the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/11-10 (2012)). 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 (2012); *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 (2012)). The Clerk therefore will provide Christensen 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.* (2012)). *See* 35 ILCS 200/11-60 (2012).

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

I, John T. Therriault, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on July 24, 2014, by a vote of 4-0.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John T. Therriault". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

John T. Therriault, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board