#### BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	
by KWAME RAOUL, Attorney General	)	
of the State of Illinois,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	PCB No. 21 − 47
	)	(Enforcement – Water)
FRONTIER NORTH, INC., a Wisconsin	)	
corporation,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

#### **NOTICE OF FILING**

To: See Attached Service List

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that I have today filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board by electronic filing the following Notice of Filing, Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement, Motion for Relief from Hearing Requirement, and Certificate of Service, copies of which are attached and hereby served upon you.

NOTIFICATION - YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that financing may be available through the Illinois Environmental Facilities Financing Act [20 ILCS 3515/1, *et seq.*] to correct the alleged violations.

Respectfully Submitted,

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, by KWAME RAOUL, Attorney General of the State of Illinois

BY: /s/ Kevin D. Bonin

KEVIN D. BONIN, #6294877
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Bureau
Illinois Attorney General's Office
500 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706
(217) 782-5055

kevin.bonin@ilag.gov

# **Service List**

# For the Respondent

Frontier North, Inc. Attn: Lynne Monaco 9062-9038 Old State Route 13 W Marion, Illinois 62959 LM3262@ftr.com Via E-Mail

## For the Illinois Pollution Control Board

Carol Webb, Hearing Officer Illinois Pollution Control Board 1021 North Grand Avenue East P.O. Box 19274 Springfield, Illinois 62794-9274 Carol.Webb@illinois.gov Via E-Mail

#### BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	
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	)	(Enforcement – Water)
FRONTIER NORTH, INC., a Wisconsin	)	
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	)	
Respondent.	)	

#### STIPULATION AND PROPOSAL FOR SETTLEMENT

Complainant, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, by KWAME RAOUL, Attorney General of the State of Illinois, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency ("Illinois EPA"), and FRONTIER NORTH, INC., ("Respondent"), (collectively "Parties to the Stipulation"), have agreed to the making of this Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement ("Stipulation") and submit it to the Illinois Pollution Control Board ("Board") for approval. This stipulation of facts is made and agreed upon for purposes of settlement only and as a factual basis for the Board's approval of this Stipulation and issuance of relief. None of the facts stipulated herein shall be introduced into evidence in any other proceeding regarding the violations of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act ("Act"), 415 ILCS 5/1, et seq. (2018), and the Board's regulations alleged in the Complaint, except as otherwise provided herein. It is the intent of the Parties to the Stipulation that it be a final adjudication of this matter.

#### I. STATEMENT OF FACTS

#### A. Parties

1. On December 30, 2020, a Complaint was filed on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois by Kwame Raoul, Attorney General of the State of Illinois, on his own motion and upon

the request of Illinois EPA, pursuant to Section 31 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/31 (2018), against the Respondent.

- 2. Illinois EPA is an administrative agency of the State of Illinois, created pursuant to Section 4 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/4 (2018).
- 3. At all times relevant to the Complaint, Respondent was and is a Wisconsin corporation that is authorized to transact business in the State of Illinois.
- 4. At all times relevant to the Complaint, Respondent owned and operated a warehouse located at 9062-9038 Old State Route 13 West, Marion, Williamson County, Illinois 62959 (the "Facility").
- 5. On September 10, 2013, Illinois EPA issued NPDES Permit Number IL0059625 (the "Permit") to Respondent. The Permit authorizes Respondent to discharge sanitary wastewater from the Facility's authorized outfall into an unnamed tributary of Little Crab Orchard Creek in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Permit.
  - 6. On August 31, 2018, the Permit expired.
- 7. On October 29, 2019, the Illinois EPA received the application for renewal of the NPDES permit from the Respondent.
- 8. On April 20, 2020, Illinois EPA reissued the Permit to Respondent with an effective date of May 1, 2020.

#### B. Allegations of Non-Compliance

Complainant contends that the Respondent has violated the following provisions of the Act and Board regulations:

Count I: Failure to Timely Apply for NPDES Permit Renewal

Section 12(a) and (f) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12(a) and (f) (2018);

Sections 309.102(a) of the Board's regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code

309.102(a).

#### C. Admission of Violations

The Respondent admits to the violations alleged in the Complaint filed in this matter and referenced within Section I.B herein.

#### **D.** Compliance Activities

Illinois EPA received the Respondent's renewal application on October 29, 2019. Illinois EPA reissued the Permit on April 20, 2020 with an effective date of May 1, 2020.

#### II. APPLICABILITY

This Stipulation shall apply to and be binding upon the Parties to the Stipulation. The Respondent shall not raise as a defense to any enforcement action taken pursuant to this Stipulation the failure of any of its officers, directors, agents, employees or successors or assigns to take such action as shall be required to comply with the provisions of this Stipulation. This Stipulation may be used against the Respondent in any subsequent enforcement action or permit proceeding as proof of a past adjudication of violation of the Act and the Board regulations for all violations alleged in the Complaint in this matter, for purposes of Sections 39 and 42 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/39 and 42 (2018).

# III. <u>IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC RESULTING FROM ALLEGED NON-COMPLIANCE</u>

Section 33(c) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/33(c) (2018), provides as follows:

In making its orders and determinations, the Board shall take into consideration all the facts and circumstances bearing upon the reasonableness of the emissions, discharges, or deposits involved including, but not limited to:

- 1. the character and degree of injury to, or interference with the protection of the health, general welfare and physical property of the people;
- 2. the social and economic value of the pollution source;
- 3. the suitability or unsuitability of the pollution source to the area in which it is located, including the question of priority of location in the area involved;

- 4. the technical practicability and economic reasonableness of reducing or eliminating the emissions, discharges or deposits resulting from such pollution source; and
- 5. any subsequent compliance.

In response to these factors, the Parties to the Stipulation state the following:

- 1. Illinois EPA received Respondent's NPDES renewal application approximately 423 days after the expiration of the Permit. Illinois EPA's information gathering responsibilities were hindered by the Respondent's violations, thereby threatening human health and the environment.
  - 2. There is social and economic benefit to the facility.
- 3. Operation of the facility was and is suitable for the area in which it is located, so long as it is operated in compliance with the Act and Board regulations.
- 4. Submitting a NPDES renewal application in a timely manner was both technically practicable and economically reasonable.
  - 5. Respondent has subsequently complied with the Act and the Board regulations.

#### IV. CONSIDERATION OF SECTION 42(h) FACTORS

Section 42(h) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/42(h) (2018), provides as follows:

In determining the appropriate civil penalty to be imposed under . . . this Section, the Board is authorized to consider any matters of record in mitigation or aggravation of penalty, including but not limited to the following factors:

- 1. the duration and gravity of the violation;
- 2. the presence or absence of due diligence on the part of the respondent in attempting to comply with requirements of this Act and regulations thereunder or to secure relief therefrom as provided by this Act;
- 3. any economic benefits accrued by the respondent because of delay in compliance with requirements, in which case the economic benefits shall be determined by the lowest cost alternative for achieving compliance;

- 4. the amount of monetary penalty which will serve to deter further violations by the respondent and to otherwise aid in enhancing voluntary compliance with this Act by the respondent and other persons similarly subject to the Act;
- 5. the number, proximity in time, and gravity of previously adjudicated violations of this Act by the respondent;
- 6. whether the respondent voluntarily self-disclosed, in accordance with subsection i of this Section, the non-compliance to the Agency;
- 7. whether the respondent has agreed to undertake a "supplemental environmental project," which means an environmentally beneficial project that a respondent agrees to undertake in settlement of an enforcement action brought under this Act, but which the respondent is not otherwise legally required to perform; and
- 8. whether the respondent has successfully completed a Compliance Commitment Agreement under subsection (a) of Section 31 of this Act to remedy the violations that are the subject of the complaint.

In response to these factors, the Parties to the Stipulation state as follows:

- 1. Illinois EPA received Respondent's NPDES renewal application approximately 423 days after the expiration of the Permit. The requirement of timely applying for NPDES permit renewal is of significant importance to Illinois EPA's water program.
- 2. Respondent was diligent in attempting to come back into compliance with the Act and the Board's regulations after receiving a Violation Notice from Illinois EPA.
- 3. No calculable economic benefit has been derived from the failure to timely submit the NPDES renewal application.
- 4. Complainant has determined, based upon the specific facts of this matter, that a penalty of Seven-Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00) will serve to deter further violations and aid in future voluntary compliance with the Act and Board regulations.
- To Complainant's knowledge, Respondent has no previously adjudicated violations
  of the Act.

- 6. Self-disclosure is not at issue in this matter.
- 7. The settlement of this matter does not include a supplemental environmental project.
  - 8. A Compliance Commitment Agreement was not at issue in this matter.

#### V. TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

#### A. Penalty Payment

1. The Respondent shall pay a civil penalty in the sum of Seven-Thousand Dollars (\$7,000.00) within thirty (30) days from the date the Board adopts and accepts this Stipulation.

#### B. Interest and Default

- 1. If the Respondent fails to make any payment required by this Stipulation on or before the date upon which the payment is due, the Respondent shall be in default and the remaining unpaid balance of the penalty, plus any accrued interest, shall be due and owing immediately. In the event of default, the Complainant shall be entitled to reasonable costs of collection, including reasonable attorney's fees.
- 2. Pursuant to Section 42(g) of the Act, interest shall accrue on any penalty amount owed by the Respondent not paid within the time prescribed herein. Interest on unpaid penalties shall begin to accrue from the date such are due and continue to accrue to the date full payment is received. Where partial payment is made on any penalty amount that is due, such partial payment shall be first applied to any interest on unpaid penalties then owing.

#### C. Payment Procedures

1. All payments required by this Stipulation shall be made by certified check or money order payable to Illinois EPA for deposit into the Environmental Protection Trust Fund ("EPTF"). Payments shall be sent by first class mail and delivered to:

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

- 2. The case name and case number shall appear on the face of the certified check or money order.
- 3. A copy of the certified check or money order and any transmittal letter shall be sent to:

Kevin D. Bonin Assistant Attorney General Environmental Bureau Illinois Attorney General's Office 500 South Second Street Springfield, Illinois 62706

## D. Future Compliance

- 1. In addition to any other authorities, the Illinois EPA, its employees and representatives, and the Attorney General, his employees and representatives, shall have the right of entry into and upon the Respondent's facility which is the subject of this Stipulation, at all reasonable times for the purposes of conducting inspections and evaluating compliance status. In conducting such inspections, the Illinois EPA, its employees and representatives, and the Attorney General, his employees and representatives, may take photographs, samples, and collect information, as they deem necessary.
- 2. This Stipulation in no way affects the responsibilities of the Respondent to comply with any other federal, state or local laws or regulations, including but not limited to the Act and the Board's regulations.
- 3. The Respondent shall cease and desist from future violations of the Act and Board regulations that were the subject matter of the Complaint.

## E. Release from Liability

In consideration of the Respondent's payment of the \$7,000.00 penalty, its commitment to cease and desist as contained in Section V.D.3 above, and upon the Board's approval of this Stipulation, the Complainant releases, waives, and discharges the Respondent from any further liability or penalties for the violations of the Act and Board regulations that were the subject matter of the Complaint herein. The release set forth above does not extend to any matters other than those expressly specified in Complainant's Complaint filed on December 30, 2020. The Complainant reserves, and this Stipulation is without prejudice to, all rights of the State of Illinois against the Respondent with respect to all other matters, including but not limited to, the following:

- a. criminal liability;
- b. liability for future violation of state, federal, local, and common laws and/or regulations;
- c. liability for natural resources damage arising out of the alleged violations; and
- d. liability or claims based on the Respondent's failure to satisfy the requirements of this Stipulation.

Nothing in this Stipulation is intended as a waiver, discharge, release, or covenant not to sue for any claim or cause of action, administrative or judicial, civil or criminal, past or future, in law or in equity, which the State of Illinois may have against any person, as defined by Section 3.315 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/3.315 (2018), or entity other than the Respondent.

#### F. Enforcement

Upon the entry of the Board's Order approving and accepting this Stipulation, that Order is a binding and enforceable order of the Board and may be enforced as such through any and all available means.

## G. Opportunity for Public Comment

Pursuant to 35 III. Adm. Code 103.300(b)(2), the Board shall publish notice of this Stipulation for at least 30 days prior to the Board accepting the Stipulation. If public comments are submitted to the Board regarding this Stipulation, Complainant reserves the right to withdraw its consent if the comments regarding the Stipulation disclose facts or considerations which indicate that the Stipulation is inappropriate, improper, or inadequate. Respondent consents to the entry of this Stipulation without further notice and agrees not to withdraw from or oppose acceptance of this Stipulation or to challenge any provision of the Stipulation, unless Complainant has notified Respondent in writing that it withdraws or withholds its consent for the Stipulation. In the event Complainant notifies Respondent that it withdraws or withholds its consent for the Stipulation, then the terms of the agreement may not be used as evidence in any litigation between those entities.

## H. Execution of Stipulation

The undersigned representatives for the Parties to the Stipulation certify that they are fully authorized by the party whom they represent to enter into the terms and conditions of this Stipulation and to legally bind them to it.

WHEREFORE, the Parties to the Stipulation request that the Board adopt and accept the foregoing Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement as written.

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY KWAME RAOUL Attorney General State of Illinois JOHN J. KIM, Director MATTHEW J. DUNN, Chief Environmental Enforcement/ Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Asbestos Litigation Division BY: BY: CHARLES GUNNARSON ANDREW ARMSTRONG, Chief Assistant Attorney General Chief Legal Counsel Environmental Bureau DATE: DATE: FRONTIER NORTH, INC.

Its: V.P. EHSS
[Title of Signatory]

DATE: July 31, 2021

WHEREFORE, the Parties to the Stipulation request that the Board adopt and accept the foregoing Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement as written.

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY KWAME RAOUL Attorney General State of Illinois MATTHEW J. DUNN, Chief JOHN J. KIM, Director Environmental Enforcement/ Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Asbestos Litigation Division BY: ANDREW ARMSTRONG, Chief Assistant Attorney General Chief Legal Counsel Environmental Bureau DATE: 8/19/21 FRONTIER NORTH, INC. BY: [Title of Signatory] DATE:

#### BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	
by KWAME RAOUL, Attorney General	)	
of the State of Illinois,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	PCB No. 21 − 47
	)	(Enforcement – Water)
FRONTIER NORTH, INC., a Wisconsin	)	
corporation,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

## MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM HEARING REQUIREMENT

NOW COMES Complainant, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, by KWAME RAOUL, Attorney General of the State of Illinois, and pursuant to Section 31(c)(2) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act ("Act"), 415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2020), moves that the Illinois Pollution Control Board ("Board") grant the parties in the above-captioned matter relief from the hearing requirement imposed by Section 31(c)(1) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/31(c)(1) (2020). In support of this motion, Complainant states as follows:

- 1. The Complaint in this matter was filed on December 30, 2020 and alleges violations of Section 12(a) and (f) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12(a) and (f) (2020), and Section 309.102(a) of the Board's Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 309.102(a).
- 2. Filed contemporaneously with this motion is a Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement ("Stipulation") executed between Complainant and Respondent, FRONTIER NORTH, INC.
  - 3. The parties have reached agreement on all outstanding issues in this matter.

- 4. The parties agree that a hearing on the Stipulation is not necessary, and respectfully request relief from such a hearing as allowed by Section 31(c)(2) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2020).
  - 5. No hearing is scheduled in this matter.

WHEREFORE, Complainant, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, hereby requests relief from the requirement of a hearing pursuant to Section 31(c)(2) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2020).

Respectfully submitted,

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, by KWAME RAOUL, Attorney General of the State of Illinois

BY: /s/ Kevin D. Bonin

KEVIN D. BONIN, #6294877 Assistant Attorney General Environmental Bureau Illinois Attorney General's Office

500 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Springfield, Illinois 62706

Ph: (217) 782-5055 Fax: (217) 524-7740 kevin.bonin@ilag.gov

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on August 26, 2021, I served by electronic mail true and correct copies of the documents entitled Notice of Filing, Stipulation and Proposal of Settlement, Motion for Relief from Hearing Requirement, and Certificate of Service to:

Frontier North, Inc. Attn: Lynne Monaco 9062-9038 Old State Route 13 W Marion, Illinois 62959 LM3262@ftr.com

Carol Webb, Hearing Officer Illinois Pollution Control Board 1021 North Grand Avenue East P.O. Box 19274 Springfield, Illinois 62794-9274 Carol.Webb@illinois.gov

s/ Lilia M. Brown
Lilia M. Brown
Administrative Clerk

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section 1-109 of the Code of Civil Procedure, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this Certificate of Service are true and correct, except as to matters therein stated to be on information and belief and as to such matters the undersigned certifies as aforesaid that she verily believes the same to be true.

s/ Lilia M. Brown
Lilia M. Brown
Administrative Clerk