ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD October 7, 2021

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)	
Complainant,)	
v.)	PCB 22-002
WIL SON PALLET LLC, an Illinois corporation,)	(Enforcement - Water)
Respondent.)	

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by J. Van Wie):

On July 27, 2021, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People), filed a two-count complaint against Wil Son Pallet LLC (Wil Son). The complaint concerns Wil Son's wood pallet manufacturing facility located at 1858 County Road 1300E in Sullivan, Moultrie 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 (2020)), the Attorney General and the State's Attorneys may bring actions before the Board on behalf of the People to enforce Illinois' environmental requirements. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31 (2020); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103. In this case, the People allege that Wil Son violated Sections 12(a) and 12(f) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/12(a), 12(f) (2020)) and Section 309.102(a) of the Board's water pollution regulations (35 Ill. Adm. Code 309.102(a)) by causing, threatening, or allowing the discharge of contaminants into the environment so as to cause or tend to cause water pollution; and causing, threatening, or allowing the discharge of stormwater associated with industrial activity into waters of the State without NPDES permit.

On July 27, 2021, the People and Wil Son 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) (2020)). This filing is authorized by Section 31(c)(2) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2020)), 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). The Board provided notice of the stipulation, proposed settlement, and request for relief. The newspaper notice was published in News Progress on September 1, 2021. The Board did not receive any requests for hearing. The Board grants the parties' request for relief from the hearing requirement. See 415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2020); 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. *See* 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 Wil Son's 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) (2020)), which bears on the reasonableness of the circumstances surrounding the alleged violations. Wil Son admits the alleged violations. The stipulation also addresses the factors of Section 42(h) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/42(h) (2020)), which may mitigate or aggravate the civil penalty amount. Under the proposed settlement, Wil Son agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$12,000.00 within 30 days after the date of this order. The People and Wil Son have satisfied Section 103.302. 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. Wil Son must pay a civil penalty of \$12,000 no later than November 8, 2021, which is the first business day following the 30th day after the date of this order. Wil Son must pay the civil penalty by certified check or money order payable to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for deposit into the Environmental Protection Trust Fund. The case name and case number must appear on the certified check or money order.
- 3. Wil Son must submit payment of the civil penalty to:

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

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

Kevin D. Bonin Assistant Attorney General 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) (2020)) at the rate set forth in Section 1003(a) of the Illinois Income Tax Act (35 ILCS 5/1003(a) (2020)).

5. Wil Son must cease and desist from future violations of the Environmental Protection Act and Board regulations that were the subject of the complaint.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Any person adversely affected or threatened by this final Board order may obtain judicial review of the order by filing a petition for review within 35 days after the date the Board order was served on the person affected by the order, under the provisions of the Administrative Review Law, and the rules adopted under it, except that review will be afforded directly in the appellate court for the district in which the cause of action arose and not in the circuit court. For purposes of this judicial review, a person is deemed to have been served with the Board's final order on the date on which the order is first published by the Board on its website. 415 ILCS 5/38.5(j) (2020); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 104.585. Within 35 days after receiving this final Board order, any participant to this Board proceeding may file a motion asking the Board to reconsider or modify the order. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.520, 104.565(e). Filing a motion to reconsider this final Board order is not a prerequisite to appealing the order. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.902.

Names and Addresses for Receiving Service of Any Petition for Review Filed with the Appellate Court			
Parties	Board		
People of the State of Illinois Attn: Kevin Bonin, AAG 500 South 2 nd Street Springfield, Illinois 62706 Kevin.bonin@illinois.gov	Illinois Pollution Control Board Attn: Don A. Brown, Clerk James R. Thompson Center 100 West Randolph Street, Suite 11-500 Chicago, Illinois 60601		
Wil Son Pallet LLC Attn: Kenneth Crossman crossmanlawoffice@gmail.com			

I, Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above opinion and order on October 7, 2021, by a vote of 4-0.

Don A. Brown, Clerk

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Illinois Pollution Control Board