#### 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. 22-018
	)	(Enforcement - Air)
NOMANI ESTATE LLC, d/b/a/ AMSTAR,	)	
an Illinois limited liability company,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

#### **NOTICE OF FILING**

To: See attached service list (VIA ELECTRONIC FILING)

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

KWAME RAOUL Attorney General State of Illinois

/s/ Nancy J. Tikalsky
NANCY J. TIKALSKY, AAG

Dated: March 30, 2022

NANCY J. TIKALSKY Assistant Attorney General Environmental Bureau Illinois Attorney General's Office 69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1800 Chicago, Illinois 60602 (872) 272-0776

Primary e-mail address: <a href="mailto:nancy.tikalsky@ilag.gov">nancy.tikalsky@ilag.gov</a>
Secondary e-mail address: <a href="mailto:maria.cacaccio@ilag.gov">maria.cacaccio@ilag.gov</a>

#### THIS FILING IS SUBMITTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

#### **SERVICE LIST**

Bradley P. Halloran
Hearing Officer
Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601
312.814.8917
Brad.Halloran@illinois.gov

John Mraibie Mraibie & Associates 14600 John Humphrey Dr. Orland Park, Il 60462 John@mraibielaw.com

Umair Nomani Nomani Estate LLC, d/b/a Amstar 13800 South Halsted Street Riverdale, Illinois 60827 nomani83@hotmail.com

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 

I, the undersigned, certify that I have served on the date of March 30, 2022 the attached

Motion for Relief from Hearing Requirement and Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement upon

the following persons, by depositing the document with the United States Postal Service located

at 100 West Randolph Street, Chicago, Illinois 60601 by the time of 5:00 p.m., with proper

postage prepaid OR electronic mail to the persons identified on the service list.

/s/ Nancy J. Tikalsky

NANCY J. TIKALSKY

**Assistant Attorney General** 

Environmental Bureau Illinois Attorney General's Office

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Primary e-mail address: nancy.tikalsky@ilag.gov

Secondary e-mail address: maria.cacaccio@ilag.gov

Date: March 30, 2022

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	)	
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 alleges violations of Section 9(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/9(a) (2020), and Sections 218.586(i)(1)(B), 218.586(i)(2)(A) and 218.586(i)(2)(C) of the Board Air Pollution Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 218.586(i)(1)(B), 218.586(i)(2)(A) and 218.586(i)(2)(C).
- 2. Complainant is filing the Complaint with the Board simultaneous with this Motion and a Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement.
  - 3. The parties have reached agreement on all outstanding issues in this matter.
- 4. This agreement is presented to the Board in a Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement filed this same date.

5. All parties agree that a hearing on the Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement 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).

WHEREFORE, Complainant, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, hereby requests that the Board grant this motion for relief from the hearing requirement set forth in Section 31(c)(1) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/31(c)(1) (2020).

Respectfully submitted,

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

KWAME RAOUL Attorney General State of Illinois

BY: /s/ Nancy J. Tikalsky

NANCY J. TIKALSKY, AAG Assistant Attorney General Environmental Bureau Illinois Attorney General's Office 69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1800 Chicago, Illinois 60602 (872) 272-0776

Primary e-mail: <a href="mailto:nancy.tikalsky@ilag.gov">nancy.tikalsky@ilag.gov</a> Secondary e-mail: <a href="mailto:maria.cacaccio@ilag.gov">maria.cacaccio@ilag.gov</a>

Dated: March 30, 2022

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an Illinois limited liability company,	)	
	)	
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, NOMANI ESTATE LLC, d/b/a/ AMSTAR ("Respondent"), a limited liability company, (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. (2020), 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. <u>STATEMENT OF FACTS</u>

#### A. Parties

- 1. On November 5, 2021, 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 the Illinois EPA, pursuant to Section 31 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/31 (2020), against the Respondent.
- 2. The Illinois EPA is an administrative agency of the State of Illinois, created pursuant to Section 4 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/4 (2020).
- 3. At all times relevant to the Complaint, Respondent was and is an Illinois limited liability company that is authorized to transact business in the State of Illinois.
- 4. At all times relevant to the Complaint, Respondent owned and operated a gasoline dispensing facility located at 13800 South Halsted Street, Riverdale, Cook County, Illinois 60827 ("Facility").
- 5. As of the date of filing of the Complaint, the Facility is located in an area of Environmental Justice ("EJ") concern as identified using Illinois EPA EJ Start.
- 6. Respondent owns and operates gasoline dispensing pumps at the Facility that emit volatile organic compounds ("VOCs") into the environment.

#### **B.** Allegations of Non-Compliance

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

Count I: Failure to Timely Decommission Vapor Collection and Control System and Submit Reports, in violation of Section 9(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/9(a) (2020), and Sections 218.586(i)(1)(B), 218.586(i)(2)(A), and 218.586(i)(2)(C) of the Board Air Pollution Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 218.586(i)(1)(B), 218.586(i)(2)(A), and 218.586(i)(2)(C).

#### C. Non-Admission of Violations

The Respondent represents that it has entered into this Stipulation for the purpose of settling and compromising disputed claims without having to incur the expense of contested litigation. By entering into this Stipulation and complying with its terms, the Respondent does not affirmatively admit the allegations of violation within the Complaint and referenced within Section I.B herein, and this Stipulation shall not be interpreted as including such admission.

#### D. Compliance Activities to Date

- 1. On March 18, 2022. Respondent submitted a decommissioning checklist, certification, and test results to the Illinois EPA.
- 2. According to the decommissioning checklist submitted to the Illinois EPA, Respondent verified decommissioned its vapor collection and control system in 2022.

#### II. <u>APPLICABILITY</u>

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 (2020).

# III. IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC RESULTING FROM ALLEGED NON-COMPLIANCE

Section 33(c) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/33(c) (2020), 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. Complainant contends that human health and the environment were threatened and the Illinois EPA's information gathering responsibilities were hindered by the Respondent's violations.
  - 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.
- 4. Timely submission to the Illinois EPA of a notice of intent to decommission the Facility's vapor collection and control system, timely decommissioning of its vapor collection and control system, and timely submission of a decommissioning checklist, certification, and test results to the Illinois EPA, are 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) (2020), 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. Respondent failed to submit a notice of intent to the Illinois EPA to decommission its vapor collection and control system, failed to timely decommission its vapor collection and control system, and failed to timely submit a decommissioning checklist,

certification, and test results to the Illinois EPA. The violations began on December 31, 2016, and were resolved by submitting a decommissioning checklist, certification, and test results to the Illinois EPA on March 16, 2022.

- 2. Respondent was diligent in attempting to come back into compliance with the Act and Board regulations once the Illinois EPA notified it of its noncompliance.
- 3. The civil penalty takes into account any economic benefit realized by the Respondent as a result of avoided or delayed compliance.
- 4. Complainant has determined, based upon the specific facts of this matter, that a penalty of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) will serve to deter further violations and aid in future voluntary compliance with the Act and Board regulations.
- 5. 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. <u>TERMS OF SETTLEMENT</u>

#### A. Penalty Payment

The Respondent shall pay a civil penalty in the sum of Five Thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) 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 the 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:

Nancy J. Tikalsky
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Bureau
Office of the Illinois Attorney General
69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1800
Chicago, Illinois 60602
nancy.tikalsky@ilag.gov

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#### 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 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 \$5,000.00 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 November 5, 2021. 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, or entity other than the Respondent.

F. Enforcement of Stipulation

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. 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.

[Remainder of this page intentionally left blank]

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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 Environmental Enforcement/ Asbestos Litigation Division	JOHN J. KIM, Director Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
BY: Sylvester, Chief Assistant Attorney General Environmental Bureau	BY: CHARLES W. GUNNARSON Chief Legal Counsel
DATE:	DATE: 3/24/22
NOMANI ESTATE LLC, d/b/a/ AMSTAR	
BY:	
ITS:	
DATE:	

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

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MATTHEW J. DUNN, Chief Environmental Enforcement/ Asbestos Litigation Division	JOHN J. KIM, Director Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
BY:  STEPHEN J. SYLVESTER, Chief Assistant Attorney General Environmental Bureau	BY: CHARLES W. GUNNARSON Chief Legal Counsel
DATE:	DATE:
NOMANI ESTATE LLC, d/b/a/ AMSTAR	
BY:	
ITS: MEMBER	
DATE: 3/22/2022	