

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. 22-38
)	(Enforcement - Air)
159 th AND CRAWFORD BUSINESS INC.,)	
an Illinois corporation, and)	
159 th and CRAWRORD REAL ESTATE INC.,)	
an Illinois corporation,)	
)	
)	
)	
)	
)	
Respondents.)	

NOTICE OF FILING

Please take notice that on Friday, April 8, 2022, I filed a Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement, and Motion to Request Relief from Hearing Requirement in this matter, copies of which are attached and served upon you.

Respectfully submitted,

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,
ex rel. KWAME RAOUL,
Attorney General of the
State of Illinois

/s Christopher Grant
CHRISTOPHER GRANT
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Bureau
69 West Washington Street, Suite 1800
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 814-5388
(312) 814-8567
Primary email: Christopher.Grant@ilag.gov
Secondary email: Maria.Cacaccio@ilag.gov

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, CHRISTOPHER GRANT, an attorney, do certify that I caused the Parties' Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement, Motion to Request Relief from Hearing Requirement, and Notice of Filing to be served this 8th day of April, 2022, upon the person listed below by electronic mail.

/S Christopher Grant

SERVICE LIST:

Ms. Sana'a Hussien,
Law Offices of Sana'a Hussien & Associates
14490 John Humphrey Drive
Orland Park, Illinois 60462
708-361-3030
Sanaa@sanaahussienlaw.com

Mr. Don Brown
Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board
(by electronic filing)

Mr. Bradley P. Halloran
Hearing Officer
Illinois Pollution Control Board
By electronic mail:
Brad.Halloran@illinois.gov

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MOTION TO REQUEST RELIEF FROM HEARING REQUIREMENT

Now comes Complainant, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, by KWAME RAOUL, Attorney General of the State of Illinois, and requests relief from the requirement of a hearing in this matter. In support thereof, the Complainant states as follows:

- 1. Along with this Motion, Complainant is filing a Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement executed between Complainant and Respondents 159th & Crawford Business, Inc. and 159th & Crawford Real Estate Inc.
- 2. Section 31 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/31 (2020), provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

* * *

(c)(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection (c), whenever a complaint has been filed on behalf of the Agency or by the People of the State of Illinois, the parties may file with the Board a stipulation and proposal for settlement accompanied by a request for relief from the requirement of a hearing pursuant to subdivision (1). Unless the Board, in its discretion, concludes that a hearing will be held, the Board shall cause notice of the stipulation,

proposal and request for relief to be published and sent in the same manner as is required for hearing pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection. The notice shall include a statement that any person may file a written demand for hearing within 21 days after receiving the notice. If any person files a timely written demand for hearing, the Board shall deny the request for relief from a hearing and shall hold a hearing in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (1).

* * *

3. No hearing is now scheduled in this matter.
4. The Complainant, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, hereby requests relief from the requirement of a hearing pursuant to 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

MATTHEW J. DUNN, Chief
Environmental Enforcement/Asbestos
Litigation Division

STEPHEN SYLVESTER, Chief
Environmental Bureau North

BY: /s Christopher Grant
CHRISTOPHER GRANT
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Bureau
69 W. Washington St., #1800
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 814-5388
Christopher.grant@ilag.gov

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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 Respondents, 159th AND CRAWFORD BUSINESS, INC., an Illinois corporation, and 159th AND CRAWFORD REAL ESTATE, INC., an Illinois corporation, (“Respondents”) (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. STATEMENT OF FACTS

A. Parties

1. On February 4, 2022, 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 Respondents.

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 159th & Crawford Business Inc. was, and is, an Illinois corporation that is authorized to transact business in the State of Illinois.

4. At all times relevant to the Complaint, Respondent 159th and Crawford Real Estate, Inc. was, and is, and Illinois corporation that is authorized to transact business in the State of Illinois.

5. At all times relevant to the Complaint, Respondents owned and operated a gasoline dispensing facility located at 15901 S. Crawford, Markham, Cook County, Illinois (“Facility”).

6. 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.

7. Respondents own and operate gasoline dispensing pumps at the Facility that emit volatile organic compounds (“VOCs”) into the environment.

B. Allegations of Non-Compliance

Complainant contends that Respondents have 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) and 218.586(i)(2)(C) of the Board Air Pollution Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 218.586(i)(1)(B) and 218.586(i)(2)(C).

C. Non-Admission of Violations

The Respondents represents that they have 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 Respondents do 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 or about November 17, 2021. Respondents submitted a decommissioning checklist, certification and test results to Illinois EPA.
2. According to the decommissioning checklist submitted to Illinois EPA, Respondents have decommissioned its vapor collection and control system.

II. APPLICABILITY

This Stipulation shall apply to and be binding upon the Parties to the Stipulation. Respondents shall not raise as a defense to any enforcement action taken pursuant to this Stipulation the failure of any of their 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 Respondents 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 Respondents' 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 decommissioning of the Facility's 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. Respondents submitted their decommissioning checklist, certification, and the required test results to Complainant on November 17, 2021.

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. Respondents failed to timely submit a decommissioning checklist, certification, and test results to the Illinois EPA. The violations began on June 29, 2017, when the Respondents acquired the Facility, and ended when the Respondents submitted their decommissioning checklist on November 17, 2021.
2. Respondents were not 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 Respondents 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, Respondents have 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

Respondents 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 Respondents fail to make any payment required by this Stipulation on or before the date upon which the payment is due, Respondents 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, 415 ILCS 5/42(g) (2020), interest shall accrue on any penalty amount owed by Respondents 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:

Christopher Grant
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Bureau
Illinois Attorney General's Office
69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1800
Chicago, Illinois 60602

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 Respondents' 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 Respondents to comply with any other federal, state or local laws or regulations, including but not limited to the Act and the Board Regulations.

3. Respondents 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 Respondents' joint payment of the \$5,000.00 penalty, their 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 Respondents 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 February 4, 2022. The Complainant reserves, and this Stipulation is without prejudice to, all rights of the State of Illinois against Respondents 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 Respondents' 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 (2020), or entity other than Respondents.

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.

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

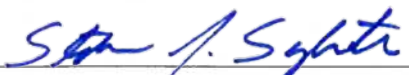
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS


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: 
STEPHEN J. SYLVESTER, Chief
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Bureau

BY: 
CHARLES W. GUNNARSON
Chief Legal Counsel

DATE: 4/6/22

DATE: 4/1/22

159th AND CRAWFORD BUSINESS, INC.

BY: _____

ITS: _____

DATE: _____

159TH AND CRAWFORD REAL ESTATE, INC.

BY: _____

ITS: _____

DATE: _____

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PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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Attorney General
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Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

BY: _____
STEPHEN J. SYLVESTER, Chief
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Bureau

BY: _____
CHARLES W. GUNNARSON
Chief Legal Counsel

DATE: _____

DATE: _____

159th AND CRAWFORD BUSINESS, INC.

BY: Timmy
Timmy Joy

ITS: President

DATE: 03 / 31 / 2022

159TH AND CRAWFORD REAL ESTATE, INC.

BY: Timmy
Timmy Joy

ITS: Treasurer

DATE: 03 / 31 / 2022