

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
August 25, 2022

TRAVIS AND JENNIFER HOBBY (Property)
Identification Number 06-01-000-001),)
)
Petitioner,)
)
v.) PCB 23-31
) (Tax Certification - Water)
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)
PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
Respondent.)

ORDER OF THE BOARD (By A. Palivos):

On August 18, 2022, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) filed a recommendation that the Board certify a specified facility of Travis and Jennifer Hobby (the Hobbys) as “pollution control facilities” for preferential tax treatment under the Property Tax Code. *See* 35 ILCS 200/11-5 *et seq.* (2020); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125. The Hobbys’ livestock waste management facility is located at 3065 E. County Road 3000, La Harpe, Hancock County. In this order, the Board describes the legal framework for tax certifications, discusses the Agency’s recommendation, and certifies that the Hobbys’ identified livestock waste handling facility is a pollution control facility.

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 (2020); *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 (2020); *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 (2020); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.216(a).

AGENCY RECOMMENDATION

The Agency states that it received a tax certification application from the Hobbys on January 5, 2022.¹ Rec. at 1. On August 18, 2022, the Agency filed a recommendation with the Board, attaching the Hobbys' application (Rec. Exh. A). The Agency's recommendation identifies the facility at issue:

Livestock waste management facilities consisting of one (1) reinforced concrete livestock waste pit measuring 170.33 ft. (length) x 49 ft. (width) x 12 ft. (depth) with 4 concrete pump out pits measuring approximately 6 ft. (length) x 6 ft. (width) x 12 ft. (depth), the reinforced concrete divider wall running the entire width of the pit below the slat flooring and measuring 11.49 ft. (height) x 10 inch (thick), all of the 18 inch (dia.) reinforced concrete columns and precast concrete floor beams supporting the 168 precast concrete floor slats over this manure pit and approximately 510 linear feet of 4 inch diameter drain tile running the perimeter of the manure pit. *Id.* at 1.

The Agency recommends that the Board certify that the livestock waste management facility is a pollution control facility as defined in Section 11-10 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/11-10 (2020)) 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, the Hobbys' application, and the Board's technical review, the Board finds and certifies that the Hobbys' livestock waste handling facility identified in this order is a pollution control facility under the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/11-10 (2020)). The Board makes no finding regarding the assessed value of the facility. 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 (2020); *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 (2020)). The Clerk therefore will provide the Hobbys and the Agency with a copy of this order.

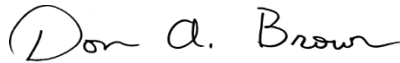
IT IS SO ORDERED.

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.* (2020)). *See* 35 ILCS 200/11-60 (2020). Within 35 days after receiving this final Board order, a party to this Board proceeding may file a motion asking the Board to reconsider or modify the order. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.520. Filing a motion to reconsider this final Board order is not a prerequisite to appealing the order. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.902.

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

Names and Addresses for Receiving Service of Any Appeal Filed with the Circuit Court	
Parties	Board
Travis and Jennifer Hobby 23225 E. 0th Street La Harpe, Illinois 61450	Illinois Pollution Control Board Attn: Don A. Brown, Clerk 60 E. Van Buren St., Suite 630 Chicago, Illinois 60605
Gabriel H. Neibergall Assistant Counsel Illinois Environmental Protection Agency 1021 North Grand Avenue East P.O. Box 19276 Springfield, IL 62794-9276	

I, Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on August 25, 2022, by a vote of 5-0.



Don A. Brown, Clerk
 Illinois Pollution Control Board