ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD January 5, 2022

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)	
~)	
Complainant,)	
v.)	PCB 23-65
)	(Enforcement - Air)
MOHAMMED ABDALLAH, an individual,)	
Respondent.)	
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OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by B.F. Currie):

On November 30, 2022, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People), filed a one-count complaint against Mohammed Abdallah (Mr. Abdallah). The complaint concerns Mr. Abdallah's gasoline dispensing facility located at 8255 South Halsted Street, in Chicago, Cook County. The parties now seek to settle without a hearing. For the reasons below, the Board directs the Clerk to provide public notice of the parties' stipulation, proposed settlement, and request for relief from the hearing requirement.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5 (2020)), the Attorney General and the State's Attorneys may bring actions before the Board to enforce Illinois' environmental requirements on behalf of the People. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31 (2020); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103. In this case, the People allege that Mr. Abdallah violated 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). The People allege respondent violated these provisions by failing to timely decommission the facility's vapor collection and control system.

On November 30, 2022, the People and Mr. Abdallah 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). Under the proposed stipulation, the Mr. Abdallah does not affirmatively admit the alleged violations and agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$5,000.

Unless the Board determines that a hearing is needed, the Board must cause notice of the stipulation, proposed settlement, and request for relief from the hearing requirement. Any person may file a written demand for hearing within 21 days after receiving the notice. If anyone timely files a written demand for hearing, the Board will deny the parties' request for relief and hold a hearing. See 415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2020); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.300(b), (c). The Board directs the Clerk to provide the required notice.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above opinion and order on January 5, 2023, by a vote of 4-0.

Don A. Brown, Clerk

Illinois Pollution Control Board

Don a. Brown