

Service List

Brad Halloran
Hearing Officer
Illinois Pollution Control Board
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Brad.Halloran@illinois.gov
(Via Email)

SJK1 Inc.,
c/o Khalid Siddiqui, Registered Agent and President
1535 Grand Avenue
Chicago, Illinois
60642
(Via certified mail)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Jason Clark, an Assistant Attorney General, certify that on the 11th day of October, 2023, I caused to be served the foregoing Notice of Filing Complainant's Motion to Deem Facts Admitted and for Summary Judgment, on the parties named on the attached Service List by methods described.

/s/ Jason Clark
Jason Clark
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Electronic Filing: Received, Clerk's Office 10/11/2023

2. On June 6, 2023, Complainant filed its Proof of Service of the May 26, 2023, Complaint with the Board.

3. The Proof of Service indicated that Respondent had been served with the Complaint on June 6, 2023. A true and correct copy of the Proof of Service is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

4. As of the date of the filing of this Motion, Respondent has not filed an Answer, nor otherwise pled, to the Complaint.

5. On July 10, 2023, the Illinois EPA received documents that showed the Facility had been remodeled and decommissioning was no longer necessary. These documents were submitted over six (6) years after the regulatory deadline.

6. Section 103.204(d) and (e) of the Board's Procedural Rules, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.204(d) and (e), provide as follows:

(d) Except as provided in subsection (e), the respondent must file an answer within 60 days after receipt of the complaint if respondent wants to deny any allegations in the complaint. All material allegations of the complaint will be taken as admitted if no answer is filed or if not specifically denied by the answer, unless respondent asserts a lack of knowledge sufficient to form a belief. Any facts constituting an affirmative defense must be plainly set forth before hearing in the answer or in a supplemental answer, unless the affirmative defense could not have been known before hearing.

(e) If the respondent timely files a motion under Section 103.212(b) or 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.506, the 60-day period to file an answer described in subsection (d) will be stayed. The stay will begin when the motion is filed and end when the Board disposes of the motion.

7. By failing to answer the Complaint on or before August 1, 2023, and by failing to file a motion staying the 60-day period in which to file an Answer as required by Section 103.204(d) and (e) of the Board's Procedural Rules, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.204(d) and (e), Respondent has admitted the material allegations asserted in the Complaint.

8. Complainant therefore requests that the Board enter an order finding that pursuant to Section 103.204(d) and (e), 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.204(d) and (e), Respondent has admitted all material allegations asserted in the Complaint.

9. Complainant's Complaint sufficiently states facts establishing the following violations of the Act and Board Air Pollution Regulations against Respondent:

Count I: Failure to Timely Decommission Vapor Collection and Control System and Submit Reports: Section 9(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/9(a) (2022), 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).

10. Section 101.516(b) of the Board's Procedural Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.516(b), provides as follows:

(b) If the record, including pleadings, depositions and admissions on file, together with any affidavits, shows that there is no genuine issue of material fact, and that the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, the Board will enter summary judgment.

11. If the Board finds that Respondent has admitted all material allegations in Complainant's Complaint, then the record shows that there is no issue of material fact remaining for review. Therefore, pursuant to Section 101.516(b) of the Board's Procedural Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.516(b), Complainant is entitled to summary judgment in its favor as a matter of law.

WHEREFORE, Complainant, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, by KWAME RAOUL, Attorney General of the State of Illinois, respectfully requests that that Board issue an order in favor of Complainant and against Respondent SKJ1 INC., as follows:

A. Finding all material allegations in the Complaint admitted against Respondent;

B. Finding that Respondent violated Section 9(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/9(a) (2022), 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. Granting summary judgment in favor of Complainant and against Respondent on Count I of the Complaint; and

D. Assessing a civil penalty in the amount of at least Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) against Respondent for its violation of the Act and Board Air Pollution Regulations.

COMPLAINANT’S ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OF ITS PROPOSED REMEDY

The June 1, 2023, Board Order in this cause provides, in pertinent part:

Accordingly, the Board further directs the hearing officer to advise the parties that in summary judgment motions and responses, at hearing, and in briefs, each party should consider: (1) proposing a remedy for a violation, if any (including whether to impose a civil penalty), and supporting its position with facts and arguments that address any or all of the Section 33(c) factors; and (2) proposing a civil penalty, if any (including a specific total dollar amount and the portion of that amount attributable to the respondent’s economic benefit, if any, from delayed compliance), and supporting its position with facts and arguments that address any or all of the Section 42(h) factors...

Pursuant to the June 1, 2023, Board Order, Complainant is proposing a remedy for Respondent’s violations of Section 9(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/9(a) (2022), 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).

Complainant therefore requests that the Board assess a civil penalty against Respondent.

Impact on the Public Resulting from Respondent’s Alleged Non-Compliance

In determining whether a civil penalty is warranted, the Board must consider the factors set forth in Section 33(c) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/33(c). *Toyal Am., Inc. v. Illinois Pollution Control Board*, 2012 IL App (3d) 100585, ¶ 28 (3d Dist. 2012). The factors provided in Section 33(c) bear

on the reasonableness of the circumstances surrounding the violation. *People v. John Prior d/b/a Prior Oil Co. and James Mezo d/b/a Mezo Oil Co.*, (PCB 02-177), Slip Op. at 29 (May 6, 2004).

Section 33(c) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/33(c) (2022), 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, Complainant states the following:

1. Human health and the environment were threatened by emissions of volatile organic compounds at the Facility caused by Respondent's violations. Additionally, the Illinois EPA's information gathering responsibilities were hindered by 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 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 subsequently complied with the Act and the Board Air Pollution

Regulations on July 10, 2023, by submitting documents indicating the Facility had been remodeled to the Illinois EPA.

In consideration of these factors, the Board should assess a civil penalty in the amount of at least Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) against Respondent for its violation of the Act and Board Air Pollution Regulations.

Explanation of Civil Penalty Requested

Section 2(b) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/2(b) (2022), provides:

It is the purpose of this Act, as more specifically described in later sections, to establish a unified, state-wide program supplemented by private remedies, to restore, protect and enhance the quality of the environment, *and to assure that adverse effects upon the environment are fully considered and borne by those who cause them.* (Emphasis added.)

The primary purpose of civil penalties is to aid in the enforcement of the Act. *See People v. McHenry Shores Water Co.*, 295 Ill. App. 3d 628, 638 (2d Dist. 1998). Civil penalties should reflect the severity of the violation(s) of the Act. *Southern Illinois Asphalt Company, Inc. v. Pollution Control Board*, 60 Ill. App. 2d 204, 208 (5th Dist. 1975). However, the Act authorizes civil penalties regardless of whether violations resulted in actual pollution. *ESG Watts, Inc. v. Illinois Pollution Control Board*, 282 Ill. App. 3d 43, 52 (4th Dist. 1996). Moreover, the award of a civil penalty “serves the legislative purpose of aiding enforcement of the Act, for through penalties upon those who blatantly disregard applicable rules and regulations, others, who might consider cutting corners at the expense of the environment, are deterred.” *Wasteland, Inc. v. Illinois Pollution Control Board*, 118 Ill. App. 3d 1041, 1055 (3d Dist. 1983) (subsequently cited by the First District; *see e.g. Standard Scrap Metal Co. v. Pollution Control Board*, 142 Ill. App 3d 655, 665 (1st Dist.1986)).

Section 42 of the Act provides guidance for calculating civil penalties for violations of the Act. In particular, Section 42(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/42(a) (2022), provides in pertinent part, as follows:

- (a) Except as provided in this Section, any person that violates any provision of this Act or any regulation adopted by the Board, or any permit or term or condition thereof, or that violates any order of the Board pursuant to this Act, shall be liable for a civil penalty of not to exceed \$50,000 for the violation and an additional civil penalty of not to exceed \$10,000 for each day during which the violation continues;

Consideration of Section 42(h) Factors

Section 42(h) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/42(h) (2022), provides as follows:

In determining the appropriate civil penalty to be imposed..., 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, Complainant states as follows:

1. Respondent failed to timely decommission its vapor collection and control system on or before December 31, 2016 and failed to submit a decommissioning checklist, certification, and test results to the Illinois EPA on or before January 30, 2017. The violations began on January 1, 2017 and January 31, 2017, respectively and were resolved on July 10, 2023, when Respondent submitted documents sufficient to show decommissioning was no longer necessary to the Illinois EPA. The Respondent violated the Act and Board Air Pollution Regulations for over six (6) years.

2. The question of good faith, or the lack thereof, is pertinent to a determination of sanctions. *Wasteland, Inc. v. Pollution Control Board*, 118 Ill.App.3d 1041 (3d Dist., 1983). Here, Respondent failed to act diligently in this matter, as evidenced by its failure to timely decommission its vapor collection and control system and submit a decommissioning checklist, certification, and test results to the Illinois EPA. As a result, Respondent caused, threatened or allowed the discharge or emission of VOCs, a contaminant, into the environment.

3. The Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) civil penalty requested by Complainant includes any economic benefit that Respondent may have accrued as a result of its noncompliance.

4. In the absence of a civil penalty sufficient to deter other persons similarly situated under the Act, no regulated entity "would ever be inclined to comply with Illinois' environmental requirements." *See Standard Scrap Metal Co.*, 142 Ill.App.3d at 664. Accordingly, a significant civil penalty is warranted. As such, a civil penalty in the amount of at least Ten Thousand Dollars

(\$10,000.00) will serve to deter further violations by Respondent and to otherwise aid in enhancing voluntary compliance with the Act and Board Air Pollution Regulations by Respondent and other persons similarly subject to the Act and Board Air Pollution Regulations.

5. To Complainant's knowledge, Respondent has had no previously adjudicated violations.

6. Self-disclosure is not at issue in this matter.

7. Respondent did not offer to perform a supplemental environmental project.

8. A Compliance Commitment Agreement was not at issue in this matter.

In furtherance of the purposes of the Act “to assure that adverse effects upon the environment are fully considered and borne by those who cause them, 415 ILCS 5/2(b) (2022), and based on the duration of the violations and Respondent’s lack of diligence to comply with Section 9(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/9(a) (2022), 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 Board should assess against Respondent a civil penalty of no less than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).

Based on the facts of this case and consideration of Section 42(h) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/42(h), the Board should assess Respondent a civil penalty in the amount of at least Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).

WHEREFORE, Complainant, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, by KWAME RAOUL, Attorney General of the State of Illinois, respectfully requests that the Board grant its Motion to Deem Facts Admitted and for Summary Judgment against Respondent, SJK1 INC., and award the relief requested herein, and take such other action as the Board deems to be appropriate and just.

Respectfully submitted,

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
by KWAME RAOUL, Attorney General
of the State of Illinois

BY: /s/ Jason Clark

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Service List

SJK1 Inc.
Khalid Siddiqui, Registered Agent
1535 Grand Avenue
Chicago, IL 60642

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Ann Marie Hanohano, as Assistant Attorney General, do certify that on this 6th day of June 2023, I caused to be served a copy of the foregoing Notice of Filing and Proof of Service of Complainant's Complaint, upon the person listed on the attached Service List via U.S. Mail.

/s/ Ann Marie Hanohano
Ann Marie Hanohano
Assistant Attorney General
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annmarie.hanohano@ilag.gov

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY												
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Complete items 1, 2, and 3.■ Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.■ Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.	<p>A. Signature <input type="checkbox"/> Agent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Addressee</p> <p>B. Received by (Printed Name) C. Date of Delivery</p> <p>5/30</p>												
<p>1. Article Addressed to:</p> <p>SJK1 Inc. Khalid Siddiqui, Reg. Agent 1535 Grand Avenue Chicago, IL 60642</p>	<p>D. Is delivery address different from item 1? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If YES, enter delivery address below: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p>												
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<p>PS Form 3811, July 2020 PSN 7530-02-000-9053</p>	<p>Domestic Return Receipt</p>												