

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
January 18, 2024

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
)
 Complainant,)
)
 v.) PCB 24-35
) (Enforcement - Air)
TECHNO-BLOC MIDWEST CORP., a)
Delaware corporation,)
)
 Respondent.)

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by M. Gibson):

On November 17, 2023, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People), filed a one-count complaint against Techno-Bloc Midwest Corp. (Techno-Bloc). The complaint concerns Techno-Bloc’s concrete block plant located at 8201 West 31st Street in Rock Island, Rock Island County. The parties now seek to settle without a hearing. For the reasons below, the Board accepts the parties’ stipulation and proposed settlement.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5 (2022)), the Attorney General and the State’s Attorneys may bring actions before the Board on behalf of the People to enforce Illinois’ environmental requirements. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31 (2022); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103. In this case, the People allege that Techno-Bloc violated Section 201.302(a) of the Board’s Air Pollution Rules (35 Ill. Adm. Code 201.302(a)), Section 254.132(a) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency’s Air Pollution Rules (35 Ill. Adm. Code 254.132(a)), and Section 9(a) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/9(a) (2022)) by failing to timely submit a complete and accurate Annual Emissions Report for calendar year 2020.

On November 17, 2023, simultaneously with the People’s complaint, the People and Techno-Bloc 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) (2022)). This filing is authorized by Section 31(c)(2) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2022)), 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). The Board provided notice of the stipulation, proposed settlement, and request for relief. The newspaper notice was published in *The Dispatch/Rock Island Argus* on December 13, 2023. The Board did not receive any requests for hearing. The Board grants the parties’ request for relief from the hearing requirement. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2022); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.300(b).

Section 103.302 of the Board’s procedural rules sets forth the required contents of stipulations and proposed settlements. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.302. These requirements

include stipulating to facts on the nature, extent, and causes of the alleged violations and the nature of Techno-Bloc's operations. Section 103.302 also requires that the parties stipulate to facts called for by Section 33(c) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/33(c) (2022)), which bears on the reasonableness of the circumstances surrounding the alleged violations. Techno-Bloc admits the alleged violations. The stipulation also addresses the factors of Section 42(h) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/42(h) (2022)), which may mitigate or aggravate the civil penalty amount. Under the proposed settlement, Techno-Bloc agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$6,650 within 30 days after the date of this order. The People and Techno-Bloc have satisfied Section 103.302. The Board accepts the stipulation and proposed settlement.

This opinion constitutes the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law.

ORDER

1. The Board accepts and incorporates by reference the stipulation and proposed settlement.
2. Techno-Bloc must pay a civil penalty of \$6,650 no later than Tuesday, February 20, 2024, which is the first business day following the 30th day after the date of this order. Techno-Bloc must pay the civil penalty by certified check or money order payable to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for deposit into the Environmental Protection Trust Fund. The case name and case number must appear on the certified check or money order.
3. Techno-Bloc must submit payment of the civil penalty to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Fiscal Services Division
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Techno-Bloc must send a copy of the certified check or money order and any transmittal letter to:

Bridget I. Flynn, Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Bureau
Illinois Attorney General's Office
500 South 2nd Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

4. Penalties unpaid within the time prescribed will accrue interest under Section 42(g) of the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/42(g) (2022)) at the rate set forth in Section 1003(a) of the Illinois Income Tax Act (35 ILCS 5/1003(a) (2022)).

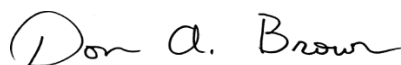
5. Techno-Bloc must cease and desist from future violations of the Environmental Protection Act and Board regulations that were the subject of the complaint.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Section 41(a) of the Environmental Protection Act provides that final Board orders may be appealed directly to the Illinois Appellate Court within 35 days after the Board serves the order. 415 ILCS 5/41(a) (2022); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(d)(2), 101.906, 102.706. Illinois Supreme Court Rule 335 establishes filing requirements that apply when the Illinois Appellate Court, by statute, directly reviews administrative orders. 172 Ill. 2d R. 335. The Board's procedural rules provide that motions for the Board to reconsider or modify its final orders may be filed with the Board within 35 days after the order is received. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.520; *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.902, 102.700, 102.702. Filing a motion asking that the Board reconsider this final order is not a prerequisite to appealing the order. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.902.

Names and Addresses for Receiving Service of Any Petition for Review Filed with the Appellate Court	
Parties	Board
Illinois Attorney General's Office Attn.: Bridget I. Flynn, Asst. Atty. General Environmental Bureau 500 South 2nd Street Springfield, Illinois 62701 Bridget.Flynn@ilag.gov	Illinois Pollution Control Board Attn: Don A. Brown, Clerk 60 East Van Buren Street, Suite 630 Chicago, Illinois 60605 don.brown@illinois.gov
Techno-Bloc Midwest Corp. Attn: Matthew Joram 2397 County Road 27 Waterloo, Indiana 46793 Techno-Bloc Midwest Corp. CT Corporation System, Registered Agent 208 South LaSalle Street, Suite 814 Chicago, Illinois 60604	

I, Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above opinion and order on January 18, 2024, by a vote of 4-0.



Don A. Brown, Clerk
 Illinois Pollution Control Board