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BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

PAUL CHRISTIAN PRATAPAS)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	PCB No. 2023-014
V.)	(Enforcement)
)	
HORIZON CONSTRUCTION)	
GROUP, INC.)	
)	
Respondent.		

RESPONDENT'S NOTICE OF COMPLAINANT'S FAILURE TO ABIDE BY ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD ORDERS

On November 16, 2023, the Illinois Pollution Control Board ("the "Board") submitted an Amended Hearing Officer Order directing the parties or their legal representatives to participate in a telephonic status conference with the Hearing Officer on January 18, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. The Amended Hearing Officer Order stated that the Complainant must initiate the conference. The Amended Hearing Officer Order also noted that the Complainant failed to appear at least three prior telephonic status conferences, including the one scheduled for November 16, 2023.

On January 18, 2024, the Complainant failed to initiate the telephonic status conference or provide a call-in number. Counsel for the Respondent were standing by, but Petitioner never made the call. This is not the Complainant's first failure to meet his obligations established in a Hearing Officer Order. The Complainant did not provide a call-in number and did not initiate the telephone conference on January 18, or, for that matter, on November 16, 2023.

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As established in the Respondent's Motion to Dismiss With Prejudice filed on June 6, 2023, and the Respondent's Brief in Opposition to Complainant's Motion to Amend the Complaint, the Complaint failed to appear at duly noticed telephonic status conferences on February 9, 2023, and April 20, 2023. His disregard of his obligations as the Petitioner are chronic and persistent.

Accordingly, the Respondent respectfully requests that the Board impose sanctions against the Complainant and dismiss the matter on its merits, with prejudice, and in its entirety. The Complainant continues to fail to comply with Hearing Officer Orders and provisions of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101 through 130, including missing numerous status hearings, failing to initiate any of the hearings, failing to respond to discovery requests, failing to identify and disclose witness, or identify documents supporting his claims, all as required under Illinois law and Scheduling Orders issued by the Hearing Officer. These repeated and continuous failures mean he cannot and has not met his burden of proof or prosecute his case.

The Complainant's failures have caused the Respondent to incur thousands of dollars in legal fees in defense of allegations that do not pass the slightest scrutiny. To continue this matter and continue placing burdens of the Complainant on the Respondent risks the continuous waste of both the Board's time and the Respondent's time and resources.

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Dated this 19th day of January 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

HUSCH BLACKWELL LLP

Husch Blackwell UP

Jon Micah Goeller Husch Blackwell LLP 120 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 2200 (312) 655-1624 JonMicah.Goeller@huschblackwell.com IARDC# 6337904

Richard J. Lewandowski Husch Blackwell LLP 33 East Main Street, Suite 300 Madison, WI 53703 (608) 255-4440 <u>Richard.lewandowski@huschblackwell.com</u> Wis. Bar. No. 1018459 IRDC Reg. No. 6343394 (*pro hoc vice*)

Attorneys for Respondent Horizon Construction Group, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 19th day of January 2024, I electronically filed RESPONDENT'S NOTICE OF COMPLAINANT'S FAILURE TO ABIDE BY ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD ORDERS with the Clerk of the Board using the Clerk's Office On-Line (COOL) EFile system.

The COOL EFile system will send email notification of such filing to:

Complainant: Paul Christian Pratapas

Interested Party: Don Brown, Clerk of the Board

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Jon Micah Goeller