## ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD April 18, 2024

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)	
Complainant,	)	
v.	,	CB 24-47
ADVANTAGE AUTOMATION MIDWEST,	) (I )	Enforcement - Air)
INC., an Illinois corporation,	)	
Respondent.	)	

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by J. Van Wie):

On January 11, 2024, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People) filed a one-count complaint against Advantage Automation Midwest, Inc. (AAM). The complaint concerns AAM's equipment manufacturing plant located at 225 North Hilton Street in Decatur, Macon 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 to enforce Illinois' environmental requirements on behalf of the People. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31 (2022); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103. In this case, the People allege that AAM 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 submit an Annual Emissions Report for calendar year 2020 by May 1, 2021.

On February 26, 2024, the People and AAM 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 *Herald & Review* on March 13, 2024. 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 a respondent'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. AAM 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, AAM agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$10,500 within 30 days after the date of this order. The People and AAM 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. AAM must pay a civil penalty of \$10,500 no later than Monday, May 20, 2024, which is the first business day following the 30th day after the date of this order. AAM 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. AAM 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

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

Hector Lareau Assistant Attorney General Illinois Attorney General's Office Environmental Bureau 500 South Second Street Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

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. AAM 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		
Hector Lareau Assistant Attorney General Environmental Bureau 500 South Second Street Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276 hector.lareau@ilag.gov  Xinyi Wei Assistant Counsel Division of Legal Counsel Illinois Environmental Protection Agency 1021 North Grand Avenue East P.O. Box 19276 Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276	Illinois Pollution Control Board Attn: Don A. Brown, Clerk 60 East Van Buren Street, Suite 630 Chicago, Illinois 60605 don.brown@illinois.gov		
John Neumann Advantage Automation Midwest, Inc. 1 Dania Dr. Hamilton, IL 62341			

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

Don A. Brown, Clerk

Illinois Pollution Control Board

Don a. Brown