

Electronic Filing: Received,Clerk's Office 05/02/2025

From: [Fox, Tim](#)
To: mike-jem@consolidated.net
Cc: [Brown, Don](#)
Subject: RE: [External] Urgent Request: Explanation for Complaint Dismissal & Immediate Action Needed
Date: Friday, May 2, 2025 11:18:46 AM

In response to your question, although the Board did not accept the complaint you recently filed, you remain eligible to file a citizen's complaint on your own behalf.

If after reviewing a citizen's complaint the Board determines that it meets the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act and Board rules, it would assign the case to a Hearing Officer. The Hearing Officer manages the process of discovery, which may include depositions, interrogatories, and requests for production and admissions. A Hearing Officer typically sets deadlines for this discovery based on the parties' proposals.

A respondent may also file a motion to dismiss or for summary judgement, either of which the Board would decide after providing the complainant an opportunity to file its response.

If the case proceeds to hearing, the Hearing Officer would conduct it in a manner similar to a civil trial, again with dates and schedules typically based on the parties' proposals. Under the Board's rules, it may hold a hearing to determine whether the alleged violation or violations occurred and, if it does so find, a separate hearing on the remedy.

Because there is no "specific timeline for proceeding with a formal complaint" as you asked and no separate deadline for each of the steps above, it is likely that the full hearing process would run at least 180 days and could conceivably run significantly longer depending on the discovery process and various scheduling proposed by the parties.

From: mike-jem@consolidated.net <mike-jem@consolidated.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:29 PM
To: Fox, Tim <Tim.Fox@illinois.gov>
Subject: RE: [External] Urgent Request: Explanation for Complaint Dismissal & Immediate Action Needed

Dear Mr. Fox,

Thank you for your response and for providing these resources. I appreciate the Board's efforts in outlining the procedural requirements under the Environmental Protection Act.

I would like to inquire whether there is a specific timeline for proceeding with a formal complaint. Additionally, am I still eligible to file a Citizen Complaint on my own behalf? The process appears to be particularly complex, and it seems there should be a more straightforward complaint form available to the public. As it stands, the level of detail and procedural requirements make it feel as though one must have a legal background to successfully file a complaint.

I will review the provided documents to gain further clarity, but I would appreciate any

guidance on the process moving forward.

Best regards,
Michael

From: Fox, Tim <Tim.Fox@illinois.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 10:01 AM
To: mike-jem@consolidated.net; Brown, Don <Don.Brown@illinois.gov>
Cc: attorneygeneral@ilag.gov
Subject: RE: [External] Urgent Request: Explanation for Complaint Dismissal & Immediate Action Needed

Mr. Laurenzana:

At open public meetings, the Board has considered and unanimously adopted five detailed orders addressing the issue you have brought to its attention:

the first on December 5, 2024:

<https://pcb.illinois.gov/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-111413>

the second on January 23, 2025:

<https://pcb.illinois.gov/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-111653>

the third on February 6, 2025:

<https://pcb.illinois.gov/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-111718>

the fourth on March 20, 2025:

<https://pcb.illinois.gov/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-113247>

and the fifth on April 17, 2025

<https://pcb.illinois.gov/documents/dsweb/Get/Document-113446>

Although, as you recognize, the Board and its staff cannot provide you with legal advice, these orders attempted to explain requirements that apply to formal complaints seeking to open an adjudicatory enforcement proceeding under the Environmental Protection Act and the Board's procedural rules.

Although we have provided these to you before and they are available from the Board's website, please find below links to the Board's Formal and Informal Complaint form documents:

<https://pcb.illinois.gov/Resources/ComplaintForms>

both of which include information labeled "Explanatory Materials."

From: mike-jem@consolidated.net <mike-jem@consolidated.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 1, 2025 3:16 AM

Electronic Filing: Received, Clerk's Office 05/02/2025

To: Fox, Tim <Tim.Fox@illinois.gov>; Brown, Don <Don.Brown@illinois.gov>

Cc: attorneygeneral@ilag.gov

Subject: RE: [External] Urgent Request: Explanation for Complaint Dismissal & Immediate Action Needed

Michael Laurenzana

P.O. Box 1099

Kincaid, IL 62540

Mike-jem@consolidated.net

217-899-7605

May 1, 2025

Tim Fox & Don Brown
Illinois Pollution Control Board
1021 E North Grand Ave
Springfield, IL 62702

CC: Attorney General Kwame Raoul
Office of the Illinois Attorney General
500 South Second Street
Springfield, IL 6270

Dear Mr. Fox and Mr. Brown,

I recently received a letter stating that my complaint has been dismissed, and I find the process to be lacking in transparency. Specifically, I am unclear on the distinction between an online complaint and a citizen complaint. When I submitted my formal complaint online, I believed it was properly filed and would be considered accordingly. However, it now appears that my submission was rejected, and the reasoning behind this decision remains unclear.

I would also like to strongly clarify that, based on previous correspondence, I understood the Citizen Complaint to be the complaint officially recognized by the Board, rather than the formal complaint, which I know was denied. Given this understanding, I had expected that my Citizen Complaint would be considered accordingly.

The clarification provided by your office has only led to further confusion regarding the proper channels for filing complaints with meaningful consideration. Additionally, I understand that your organization does not offer legal assistance, but the absence of guidance for navigating the system makes the process unnecessarily difficult for concerned citizens. This lack of accessibility is deeply frustrating, and I strongly believe that a better, more transparent approach is needed.

Above all, I urge the Board to consider the safety and well-being of the village and its residents, as this is a fundamental concern that should never be overlooked. No commercial entity should be placed above the law or operate without proper accountability, yet this situation suggests otherwise. Protecting the rights and safety of our community must remain a priority, and I sincerely hope that you will take meaningful action to ensure fairness and responsibility in this matter.

Electronic Filing: Received, Clerk's Office 05/02/2025

I have included a CC to the Attorney General, as I believe this matter is of the utmost importance and warrants their attention.

I would appreciate further clarification regarding the dismissal of my complaint, as well as any guidance on how to submit a formal request that holds appropriate weight within your process. I look forward to your response and any insight you can provide.

Sincerely,
Michael Laurenzana

From: mike-jem@consolidated.net <mike-jem@consolidated.net>
Sent: Friday, April 4, 2025 11:35 AM
To: 'Lindsey Patterson' (Lindseygaba@yahoo.com) <Lindseygaba@yahoo.com>
Subject: FW: [External] Urgent Request: Explanation for Complaint Dismissal & Immediate Action Needed

From: Fox, Tim <Tim.Fox@illinois.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 4, 2025 9:02 AM
To: mike-jem@consolidated.net
Cc: Brown, Don <Don.Brown@illinois.gov>; Tipsord, Marie <Marie.Tipsord@illinois.gov>
Subject: FW: [External] Urgent Request: Explanation for Complaint Dismissal & Immediate Action Needed

Mr. Laurenzana, the Board intends to add this request to the agenda of its next regularly-scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 17, 2025, so that it could act on it at that time.

From: mike-jem@consolidated.net <mike-jem@consolidated.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 1:44 PM
To: PCB.Clerks <PCB.Clerks@illinois.gov>
Cc: attorneygeneral@ilag.gov; 'Peter Chung' <peter.chung@sierraclub.org>; NRC@uscg.mil; oshagov@osha.gov; 'Congresswoman Mary Miller' <IL15MM.Outreach@mail.house.gov>; laurenzana@consolidated.net; info@prairierivers.org; info@osha.gov; contact@epa.gov; EXT WICS TV <news@wics.com>
Subject: [External] Urgent Request: Explanation for Complaint Dismissal & Immediate Action Needed

Michael Laurenzana
Kincaid, Illinois, United States
Wednesday, 02 April 2025

To: Illinois Pollution Control Board

CC: attorneygeneral@ilag.gov; 'Peter Chung' <peter.chung@sierraclub.org>; NRC@uscg.mil; oshagov@osha.gov; 'Congresswoman Mary Miller' <IL15MM.Outreach@mail.house.gov>; 'laurenzana@consolidated.net'; info@prairierivers.org; info@osha.gov; contact@epa.gov; news@wics.com

Subject: Formal Request for Explanation of Complaint Dismissal & Urgent Call for Investigation

Dear Illinois Pollution Control Board, I recently sent a letter to your office requesting an update on a complaint I filed on January 24, 2025. However, I have since been informed that the complaint was dismissed on March 20, 2025. I am seeking a detailed explanation for this decision, as the concerns outlined in my complaint pose a serious threat to public safety, environmental stability, and the well-being of the community surrounding Lake Sangchris.

Your office is now fully aware of the hazards associated with the Anhydrous Ammonia Bulk Storage Facility near Sangchris Lake, and by dismissing this complaint, you bear responsibility for any future consequences. If a release were to occur, evacuation would be the only option—but if this happens at night, many residents, including myself, may have no time to react. This would result in loss of life and undeniable evidence that the Board knowingly disregarded warnings about this imminent danger.

It is deeply concerning that legal technicalities and bureaucratic processes are standing in the way of addressing a matter that is fundamentally about the safety and survival of the community. Regulatory hurdles should never justify inaction when lives are at risk. The dismissal of this complaint does not erase the dangers posed by this facility, and failure to act will only serve to heighten the potential for catastrophe.

I formally request that the Board open an immediate investigation into these safety concerns and provide a clear timeline of the corrective actions that will be taken. If no action will be pursued, I request written confirmation of this decision so that official liability is established for any future incidents stemming from this oversight.

I will include the complaint I previously filed, and I appreciate your full consideration of all the factors outlining these concerns. The issues presented are of urgent importance, and I ask that they be reviewed thoroughly. Additionally, I have CC'd relevant officials, environmental groups, and media outlets to ensure transparency and accountability regarding this matter.

This is not merely a regulatory formality—it is a matter of life and death for the residents surrounding Sangchris Lake. I urge the Board to reconsider its stance and take necessary action before this hazard turns into a tragedy.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this critical matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Michael Laurenzana

Email: Mike-jem@consolidated.net

Phone: 217-899-7605

[Attached: Citizen Complaint] Phone: 217-899-7605

[Attached: Citizen Complaint]

State of Illinois - CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The information contained in this communication is confidential, may be attorney-client privileged or attorney work product, may constitute inside information or internal deliberative staff communication, and is intended only for the use of the addressee. Unauthorized use, disclosure or copying of this communication or any part thereof is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately by return e-mail and destroy this communication and all copies thereof, including all attachments. Receipt by an unintended recipient does not waive attorney-client privilege, attorney work product privilege, or any other exemption from disclosure.