

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
November 8, 1990

ACME FINISHING CO., INC.)
)
) PCB 90-179
) (Permit Appeal)
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ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)
PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
)
) Respondent.

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by J.D. Dumelle):

This matter comes before the Board on a permit appeal filed by Acme Finishing Company ("Acme") on September 28, 1990. On October 9, 1990 the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency ("Agency") filed a motion to dismiss pursuant to the Board's decision in Caterpillar Tractor v. EPA, PCB 83-86 (October 18, 1983). Acme replied on October 15, 1990 with a detailed brief asserting that Caterpillar is distinguishable from the instant case and, further, that dismissal of this permit appeal would prejudice the company. On November 5, 1990, Acme filed a motion for leave to file a supplemental response. While this motion is not ripe, the Board will grant it so as to avoid undue delay.

The Agency contends that Acme's "reapplication" is in fact a motion to reconsider, and that the Board is precluded from considering a permit appeal while the Agency's reconsideration is pending. In Reichold v. EPA 3-89-0393 (Slip Op. October 12, 1990), however, the Third District Appellate Court held that the Agency is without statutory authority to reconsider its decisions. In doing so, the court considered Caterpillar but held that the precedent espoused therein was not binding. Accordingly, the Agency's motion is denied and this matter is accepted for hearing.

Hearing must be scheduled within 14 days of the date of this Order and completed within 60 days of the date of this Order. The hearing officer shall inform the Clerk of the Board of the time and location of the hearing at least 40 days in advance of hearing so that public notice of hearing may be published. After hearing, the hearing officer shall submit an exhibit list, and all actual exhibits to the Board within 5 days of the hearing. Any briefing schedule shall provide for final filings as expeditiously as possible and in no event later than 70 days from the date of this Order.

If after appropriate consultation with the parties, the parties fail to provide an acceptable hearing date or if after an attempt the hearing officer is unable to consult with the parties, the hearing officer shall unilaterally set a hearing date in conformance with the schedule above. This schedule will only provide the Board a very short time period to deliberate and reach a decision before the due date. The hearing officer and the parties are encouraged to expedite this proceeding as much as possible.

Within 10 days of accepting this case, the Hearing Officer shall enter a Hearing Officer Scheduling Order governing completion of the record. That Order shall set a date certain for each aspect of the case including: briefing schedule, hearing date(s), completion of discovery (if necessary) and pre-hearing conference (if necessary). The Hearing Officer Scheduling Order may be modified by entry of a complete new scheduling order conforming with the time requirements below.

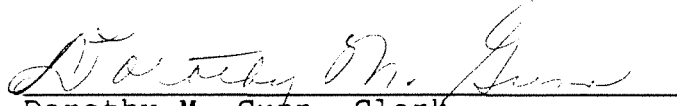
The hearing officer may extend this schedule only on a waiver of the decision deadline by the petitioner and only for the equivalent or fewer number of days that the decision deadline is waived. Such waivers must be provided in writing to the Clerk of the Board. Any waiver must be an "open waiver" or a waiver of decision until a date certain.

Because of requirements regarding the publication of notice of hearing, no scheduled hearing may be canceled unless the petitioner provides an open waiver or a waiver to a date at least 120 days beyond the date of the motion to cancel hearing. This should allow ample time for the Board to republish notice of hearing and receive transcripts from the hearing before the due date. Any order by the hearing officer granting cancellation of hearing shall include a complete new scheduling order with a new hearing date at least 40 days in the future and at least 30 days prior to the new due date and the Clerk of the Board shall be promptly informed of the new schedule.

Because this proceeding is the type for which the Illinois Environmental Protection Act sets a very short statutory deadline for making a decision, absent a waiver, the Board will grant extensions or modifications only in unusual circumstances. Any such motion must set forth an alternative schedule for notice, hearing, and final submissions, as well as the deadline for decision, including response time to such a motion. However, no such motion shall negate the obligation of the hearing officer to establish a Scheduling Order pursuant to the requirements of this Order, and to adhere to that Order until modified.

IT IS SO ORDERED

I, Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify that the above Order was adopted on the 14th day of November, 1990, by a vote of 7-0.



Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board