## ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD April 16, 2009

| PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, | ) |                       |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
|                                  | ) |                       |
| Complainant,                     | ) |                       |
| V.                               | ) | PCB 09-56             |
| <b>v.</b>                        | ) | (Enforcement - Water) |
| BRENT SPECKHART d/b/a BRENT      | ) | ,                     |
| SPECKHART SWINE FARM,            | ) |                       |
| <b>D</b>                         | ) |                       |
| Respondent.                      | ) |                       |

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD: (by G.T. Girard):

On February 3, 2009, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People), filed a three-count complaint (Complaint) against Brent Speckhart, doing business as Brent Speckhart Swine Farm (Respondent). The complaint concerns respondent's swine farm facility (facility) located in the northeast corridor of Section 23, Township 3 South, Range 8 West, in Adams 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 (2006)), 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 (2006); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103. In this case, the People allege that respondent Speckhart violated Sections 12(a), 12(d), and 12(f) of the Act, (415 ILCS 5/12(a), (d), and (f) (2006)), and Sections 501.404(c)(3) and 501.404(c)(4)(A) of the Board's Agriculture Related Pollution Regulations (35 Ill. Adm. Code 501.404(c)(3) and 501.404(c)(4)(A)). Comp. at 5-9.

Specifically, the People allege that respondent Speckhart violated the provisions of the Act and Board's regulations by discharging livestock waste upon the land so as to allow contaminants to drain into waters of the state; depositing livestock waste upon the land so as to create water pollution; discharging contaminants into the waters of the state from a point source without a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit; failing to maintain lagoon levels such that there was adequate storage capacity to prevent an overflow; and, by failing to take proper measures to handle the volume of waste in the facility's two-cell lagoon.

On February 3, 2009, the People and respondent 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) (2006)). This filing is authorized by Section 31(c)(2) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2006)), 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 III. 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 *Quincy Herald-Whig* on February 7, 2009. 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) (2006); 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 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) (2006)), which bears on the reasonableness of the circumstances surrounding the alleged violations. The stipulation also addresses the factors of Section 42(h) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/42(h) (2006)), which may mitigate or aggravate the civil penalty amount. Respondent admits the alleged violations and agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$7,000.00. The People and respondent 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. Brent Speckhart Swine Farm must pay a civil penalty of \$7,000 for the alleged violations no later than May 16, 2009, which is first business day following the 30th day after the date of this order. Respondent must pay the civil penalty by certified check or money order payable to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, designated to the Illinois Environmental Protection Trust Fund. The case name, case number, and respondents' Federal Tax Identification Numbers must appear on the face of the certified check or the money order.
- 3. Respondent 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

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

Environmental Bureau Illinois Attorney General's Office 500 South Second Street Springfield, Illinois 62706

- 4. Penalties unpaid within the time prescribed will accrue interest under Section 42(g) of the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/42(g) (2006)) at the rate set forth in Section 1003(a) of the Illinois Income Tax Act (35 ILCS 5/1003(a) (2006)).
- 5. Respondent must cease and desist from the alleged violations.

## 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) (2006); *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.

I, John Therriault, Assistant Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above opinion and order on April 16, 2009, by a vote of 5-0.

John Therriault, Assistant Clerk Illinois Pollution Control Board

John T. Therrank