ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD August 5, 2010

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)	
Complainant,)	
v.)	PCB 10-10 (Enforcement - Water)
THERMOGAS COMPANY, INC., n/k/a)	(Emorement - water)
WILLIAMS FERTILIZER, INC., formerly d/b/a MCLEANSBORO THERMOGAS, a)	
foreign corporation,)	
Respondent.)	

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by C.K. Zalewski):

On July 30, 2009, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People), filed a one-count complaint against Thermogas Company, Inc., doing business as McLeansboro Thermogas, a foreign corporation (Thermogas). The complaint concerns a liquid agricultural-chemical facility located approximately two miles south of McLeansboro, Hamilton County. The parties now seek to settle without a hearing. Consistent with the stipulation and proposal for settlement filed on June 11, 2010, the Board's June 17, 2010 order amended the caption of this case to reflect that Thermogas is now known as "Williams Fertilizer, Inc." (Williams). For the reasons below, the Board accepts the stipulation and proposed settlement.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5 (2008)), 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 (2008); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103. In this case, the People's complaint alleged that by failing to control the agrichemicals handled at the facility, Thermogas caused or threatened water pollution in violation of Sections 12(a) and (d) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/12(a), (d) (2008)) and caused or allowed groundwater quality exceedences in violation of Section 12(a) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/12(a), (d) (2008)) and Section 620.420 of the Board's regulations (35 Ill. Adm. Code 620.420).

On June 11, 2010, the People and Williams 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) (2008)). This filing is authorized by Section 31(c)(2) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2008)), 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 *McLeansboro Times-Leader* on June 24, 2010. 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) (2008); 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 III. Adm. Code 103.302. These requirements include stipulating to facts on the nature, extent, and causes of the alleged violations and the nature of Williams' 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) (2008)), which bears on the reasonableness of the circumstances surrounding the alleged violations. Williams denies the alleged violations. The stipulation also addresses the factors of Section 42(h) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/42(h) (2008)), which may mitigate or aggravate the civil penalty amount. Williams agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$15,000. The stipulation further provides that the facility is the property of Ferrellgas, L.P. (Ferrellgas), a signatory to the stipulation, and that Ferrellgas must "obtain a deed restriction on the former facility property prohibiting withdrawal of the groundwater for potable use within the area where concentrations of agrichemicals exceed the Class I Groundwater Standards." Stipulation at 8. The People and Williams 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.

<u>ORDER</u>

- 1. The Board accepts and incorporates by reference the stipulation and proposed settlement.
- 2. Williams must pay a civil penalty of \$15,000 no later than September 7, 2010, which is the first business day following the 30th day after the date of this order. Williams 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, case number, and Williams' federal tax identification number must appear on the face of the certified check or money order.
- 3. Williams 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

Williams 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, IL 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) (2008)) at the rate set forth in Section 1003(a) of the Illinois Income Tax Act (35 ILCS 5/1003(a) (2008)).
- 5. Williams must cease and desist from future violations of the Act and Board Regulations that were the subject of the complaint.
- 6. By September 7, 2010, which is the first business day following the 30th day after the date of this order, Ferrellgas must obtain a deed restriction on the former facility property prohibiting withdrawal of the groundwater for potable use within the area where concentrations of agrichemicals exceed the Class I Groundwater Standards.

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) (2008); *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 August 5, 2010, by a vote of 5-0.

John T. Therrian

John Therriault, Assistant Clerk Illinois Pollution Control Board