

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
May 19, 2011

PANTHER CREEK RANCH, LLC -	)	
CONGERVILLE (Property ID No. 18-23-200-	)	
005),	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	PCB 11-80
	)	(Tax Certification - Water)
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL	)	
PROTECTION AGENCY,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

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

On May 5, 2011, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) filed a recommendation that the Board certify certain facilities of Panther Creek Ranch, LLC - Congerville (petitioner) as “pollution control facilities” for preferential tax treatment under the Property Tax Code. *See* 35 ILCS 200/11-5 *et seq.* (2008); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125. Petitioner’s livestock operation is located at 1895 Route 150, Congerville, Woodford County. In this order, the Board describes the legal framework for tax certifications, discusses the Agency’s recommendation, and certifies that the petitioner’s manure management structures are pollution control facilities.

**LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

Under the Property Tax Code, “[i]t is the policy of this State that pollution control facilities should be valued, at 33 1/3% of the fair cash value of their economic productivity to their owners.” 35 ILCS 200/11-5 (2008); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.200(a)(2). “For tax purposes, pollution control facilities shall be certified as such by the Pollution Control Board and shall be assessed by the Department [of Revenue].” 35 ILCS 200/11-20 (2008); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.200(a).

Under Section 125.202 of the Board’s procedural rules, a person may submit an application for tax certification to the Agency. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.202. If the Agency receives a tax certification application, the Agency must file with the Board a recommendation on the application, unless the applicant withdraws the application. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.204(a). Among other things, the Agency’s filing must recommend that the Board issue or deny tax certification. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.204(a)(4). If the Board finds “that the claimed facility or relevant portion thereof is a pollution control facility . . . , the Pollution Control Board . . . shall enter a finding and issue a certificate to that effect.” 35 ILCS 200/11-25 (2008); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.216(a).

### AGENCY RECOMMENDATION

The Agency states that it received a tax certification application from petitioner on December 24, 2009.<sup>1</sup> Rec. at 1. On May 5, 2011, the Agency filed a recommendation on the application with the Board, attaching the application. The Agency's recommendation identifies the facilities at issue:

Livestock waste management facilities consisting of one concrete manure staging area (approximately 51 ft x 90 ft) under roof (approximately 51 ft x 58 ft); one concrete solids settling basin (approximately 51 ft x 125 ft) with weir; one composting area (with clay-lined area approximately 420 ft x 80 ft composed of a 12 ft wide x 1 ft high berm); a concrete lift station (consisting of a 6 ft diameter x 7 ft deep with two 5 horsepower submersible sewage pumps); three concrete junction boxes (each 2 ft diameter x 2 ft deep); three manifolds and three vegetative treatment areas (approximately 400 ft x 80 ft with a 12 ft wide x 1 ft high berm; gutters, downspouts, and storm water pipes conveying roof water away from the 58 ft x 471 ft feedlot; three valves for three emergency containment/storm water detention basins; and approximately 410 ft of 6-inch PVC sewer pipe. *Id.*

The Agency's recommendation further describes the facilities: "[t]hese livestock waste management facilities are used to collect, transport and/or store livestock wastes prior to cropland application." Rec. at 2. The Agency's recommendation also identifies the location of the facilities: "Section 2, T25N, R1W of the 3rd PM in Woodford County." Rec. at 1.

The Agency recommends that the Board certify that the identified facilities are pollution control facilities as defined in Section 11-10 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/11-10 (2008)) with the primary purpose of eliminating, preventing, or reducing water pollution, or as otherwise provided in 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.200(a)(1). Rec. at 2.

### TAX CERTIFICATE

Based on the Agency's recommendation and petitioner's application, the Board finds and certifies that petitioner's facilities identified in this order are pollution control facilities under the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/11-10 (2008)). Under Section 11-25 of the Property Tax Code, the effective date of this certificate is "the date of application for the certificate or the date of the construction of the facility, which ever is later." 35 ILCS 200/11-25 (2008); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.216(a). Section 125.216(d) of the Board's procedural rules states that the Clerk "will provide the applicant and the Agency with a copy of the Board's order setting forth *the Board's findings and certificate, if any.*" 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.216(d) (quoting in italics 35 ILCS 200/11-30 (2008)). The Clerk therefore will provide petitioner and the Agency with a copy of this order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

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<sup>1</sup> The Agency's recommendation is cited as "Rec. at \_."

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 order on May 19, 2011, by a vote of 5-0.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John T. Therriault". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

John Therriault, Assistant Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board