ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD September 8, 2011

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
V.)	PCB 10-108
)	(Enforcement - Water)
WILLIAM CHARLES REAL ESTATE)	,
INVESTMENT, L.L.C., an Illinois limited)	
liability company,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by T.E. Johnson):

On June 24, 2010, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People), filed a three-count complaint against William Charles Real Estate Investment, L.L.C. (William Charles). The complaint concerns William Charles' proposed 65-acre subdivision development located at the northwest corner of Rotary Road and Ryberg Road in New Milford, Winnebago 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 (2010)), 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 (2010); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103. In this case, the People allege that William Charles violated Section 12(a) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/12(a) (2010)) by failing to stabilize disturbed soils and provide adequate erosion control structures, thereby causing, threatening, and allowing water pollution. The People also allege that William Charles violated Section 12(d) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/12(d) (2010)) by failing to provide adequate sediment and erosion controls for stockpiled soil at the graded portions of the site and by failing to adequately stabilize disturbed areas, thereby depositing contaminants on the land so as to cause a water pollution hazard. Finally, the People allege that William Charles violated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit No. ILR10G970, thus violating Section 12(f) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/12(f) (2010)), by failing to adequately implement the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), thereby causing, threatening, or allowing the discharge of stormwater containing eroded soil and sediment from the site into drainage ditches along the site perimeter and the Kishwaukee River.

On June 15, 2011, the People and William Charles 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) (2010)). This filing is authorized by Section 31(c)(2) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2010)), 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 *Rockford Register Star* on July 14, 2011. 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) (2010); 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 William Charles' 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) (2010)), which bears on the reasonableness of the circumstances surrounding the alleged violations. William Charles does not affirmatively admit the alleged violations. The stipulation also addresses the factors of Section 42(h) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/42(h) (2010)), which may mitigate or aggravate the civil penalty amount. William Charles agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$10,000. The People and William Charles 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. William Charles must pay a civil penalty of \$10,000 no later than October 11, 2011, which is the first business day following the 30th day after the date of this order. William Charles 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 William Charles' federal tax identification number must appear on the face of the certified check or money order.
- 3. William Charles 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

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

Nancy J. Tikalsky Assistant Attorney General Environmental Bureau Illinois Attorney General's Office 69 West Washington Street, Suite 1800 Chicago, Illinois 60602

- 4. Penalties unpaid within the time prescribed will accrue interest under Section 42(g) of the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/42(g) (2010)) at the rate set forth in Section 1003(a) of the Illinois Income Tax Act (35 ILCS 5/1003(a) (2010)).
- 5. William Charles must cease and desist from future violations of the Environmental Protection Act and Board regulations that were the subject of the complaint.

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) (2010); 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 September 8, 2011, by a vote of 5-0.

John Therriault, Assistant Clerk Illinois Pollution Control Board