

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
September 8, 2011

WRB REFINING, LLC, Ultralow Sulfur)	
Diesel Hydrotreater (Property Identification)	
Number 19-1 -08-35-00-000-001),)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	PCB 12-40
)	(Tax Certification – Air)
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)	
PROTECTION AGENCY,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

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

On August 25, 2011, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) filed a recommendation that the Board certify certain facilities of WRB Refining, LLC (WRB Refining) as “pollution control facilities” for preferential tax treatment under the Property Tax Code. *See* 35 ILCS 200/11-5 *et seq.* (2010); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125. WRB Refining’s Wood River petroleum refinery is located at 900 South Central Avenue in Roxanna, Madison County. In this order, the Board describes the legal framework for tax certifications, discusses the Agency’s recommendation, and certifies that WRB Refining’s Ultralow Diesel Hydrotreater systems 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 (2010); *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 (2010); *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 (2010); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.216(a).

AGENCY RECOMMENDATION

The Agency states that it received a tax certification application from WRB Refining on or about October 14, 2010.¹ Rec. at 1. On August 25, 2011, the Agency filed a recommendation on the application with the Board, attaching the application. The Agency's recommendation identifies the Ultralow Sulfur Diesel Hydrotreater as "part of the Ultralow Sulfur Diesel project to reduce plant-wide emissions of sulfur oxides (Sox), nitrogen dioxides (NOx) and particulate matter associated with the refining of diesel pool sold to consumers. *Id.* at 2.

The Agency's recommendation further describes the facilities as having been:

combined from two existing hydrocracker unit reactors and related existing equipment with new equipment, piping and controls. The hydrotreater unit employs hydrogen, a fixed bed catalyst, high pressure and high temperatures to remove sulfur compounds from various product streams (i.e., straight run, fluid cat cracker and coker light gasoil). The high-pressured reaction from the catalyst to the hydrogen-treated product streams removes the sulfur from the product, converting it to hydrogen sulfide. *Id.* at 2.

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 (2010)) with the primary purpose of preventing, eliminating or reducing air pollution. Rec. a 5.

TAX CERTIFICATE

Based on the Agency's recommendation WRB Refining's application, the Board finds and certifies that WRB Refining's facilities identified in this order are pollution control facilities under the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/11-10 (2010)). 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 (2010); *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 (2010)). The Clerk therefore will provide WRB Refining and the Agency with a copy of this order.

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

¹ The Agency's recommendation is cited as "Rec. at _."

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 September 8, 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 extending to the right.

John Therriault, Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board