

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 Hicks Oils' 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. Hicks Oils 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. Hicks Oils agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$5,000 and to perform a Supplemental Environmental Project (or SEP) valued at \$75,000 that will benefit the non-profit Edelstein Water Works Co-op, located 25 miles away from the respondents' site. Hicks Oils agrees to provide up to 50 water softener systems for customers of the co-op for the purpose of removing naturally occurring excess radium from the raw water, as the co-op cannot otherwise afford to remove it.

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. Hicks Oils & Hicksgas, Inc. must pay a civil penalty of \$5,000 no later than February 25, 2013, which is the first business day following the 30th day after the date of this order. Hicks Oils & Hicksgas, Inc. 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 Hicks Oils & Hicksgas, Inc.'s federal employer identification number must appear on the face of the certified check or money order.
3. Hicks Oils & Hicksgas, Inc. 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

Hicks Oils & Hicksgas, Inc. must send a copy of the certified check or money order and any transmittal letter to:

Michael D. Mankowski
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) (2010)) at the rate set forth in Section 1003(a) of the Illinois Income Tax Act (35 ILCS 5/1003(a) (2010)).
5. Hicks Oils & Hicksgas, Inc. 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 T. Therriault, Assistant Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on January 24, 2013, by a vote of 5-0.



John T. Therriault, Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board