

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
November 7, 2013

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)
PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
Complainant,)
)
v.) AC 14-16
) (IEPA No.237-13-AC)
THOMAS GIBBS,) (Administrative Citation)
)
Respondent.)

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by D. Glosser):

On September 13, 2013, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) timely filed an administrative citation against Thomas Gibbs (respondent). *See* 415 ILCS 5/31.1(c) (2012); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(b), 108.202(c). The administrative citation concerns respondent's facility located at 301 West Barnett Street in Harrisburg, Saline County. The property is commonly known to the Agency as the "Harrisburg/Gibbs Fertilizer" site and is designated with Site Code No. #1650205047. For the reasons below, the Board accepts respondents' petition to contest the administrative citation.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5 (2012)), an administrative citation is an expedited enforcement action brought before the Board seeking civil penalties that are fixed by statute. Administrative citations may be filed only by the Agency or, if the Agency has delegated the authority, by a unit of local government, and only for limited types of alleged violations. *See* 415 ILCS 5/21(o), 21(p), 22.51, 22.51a, 31.1(c), 42(b)(4), 42(b)(4-5), 55(k) (2012); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.

In this case, the Agency alleges that on July 17, 2013, respondent violated Section 21(p)(1), (5), and (7) and 55(k)(1) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/21(p)(1), (5), and (7) and 55(k)(1) (2012)) by open dumping waste in a manner leading to litter, a proliferation of disease vectors, deposition of general construction or demolition debris or clean construction or demolition debris, and water accumulating in waste tires at the Saline County site. The Agency asks the Board to impose on respondent the statutory \$1,500 civil penalty for each alleged violation, for a total civil penalty of \$6,000.

As required, the Agency served the administrative citation on September 12, 2013, within "60 days after the date of the observed violation." 415 ILCS 5/31.1(b) (2012); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(c), 108.202(b). Any petition to contest the administrative citation was due by October 17, 2013. On October 18, 2012, respondent timely filed a petition for review. The petition was timely filed because it was postmarked on or before the filing deadline. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31.1(d) (2012); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(b), 108.204(b). Respondent alleges that he

did not commit the violations, and the violations were a result of uncontrollable circumstances *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.206.

The Board accepts the petition and directs the hearing officer to proceed expeditiously to hearing. The hearing officer will give the parties at least 21 days written notice of the hearing. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.300; 415 ILCS 5/31.1(d)(2) (2012). By contesting the administrative citation, respondent may have to pay the hearing costs of the Board and the Agency. *See* 415 ILCS 5/42(b) (4-5) (2012); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.500. A schedule of the Board's hearing costs is available from the Clerk of the Board and on the Board's Web site at www.ipcb.state.il.us. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.504.

Respondent may withdraw his petition to contest the administrative citation at any time before the Board enters its final decision. If respondent chooses to withdraw his petition, he must do so in writing, unless he does so orally at hearing. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.208. If respondent withdraws his petition after the hearing starts, the Board will require respondent to pay the hearing costs of the Board and the Agency. *See id.* at 108.500(c).

The Agency has the burden of proof at hearing. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31.1(d)(2) (2012); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.400. If the Board finds that respondent violated Section 21(p)(1), (5), and (7) and 55(k)(1) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/21(p)(1), (5), and (7) and 55(k)(1) (2012)), the Board will impose civil penalties on respondent. The civil penalty for violating any provision of Section 21(p) is \$1,500 for each violation, except that the penalty amount is \$3,000 for each violation that is the person's second or subsequent adjudicated violation of that provision. *See* 415 ILCS 5/42(b)(4-5) (2012); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.500(a). However, if the Board finds that respondent "has shown that the violation resulted from uncontrollable circumstances, the Board shall adopt a final order which makes no finding of violation and which imposes no penalty." 415 ILCS 5/31.1(d)(2) (2012); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.500(b).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, John T. Therriault, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on November 7, 2013, by a vote of 4-0.



John T. Therriault, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board