

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
September 17, 2015

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
)
Complainant,)
)
v.) PCB 16-036
) (Enforcement - Land)
FRANCISCO RAMIREZ and KIM)
RAMIREZ,)
individually and doing business as)
ELIZABETH)
USED TIRES AND FLEET SERVICE,)
an unincorporated entity,)

Respondent.

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by G.M. Keenan):

On July 30, 2015, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People), filed a four-count complaint against Kim Ramirez and Francisco Ramirez, individually and d/b/a Elizabeth Used Tires and Fleet Service, an unincorporated entity (respondents). The complaint concerns respondents' tire retail and repair shop located at 3588 South Eby's Mill Road in Elizabeth, Jo Daviess County. For the reasons below, the Board accepts the parties' stipulation and proposed settlement.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5 (2014)), 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 (2014); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103. In this case, the People allege that respondents violated Sections 55(a)(4), (e), (g), and 55.8(b) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/55(a)(4), (e), (g), and 55.8(b) (2014)) and Sections 848.202(b)(2), (b)(4), (b)(5), (c)(2), (c)(3), 848.204(c)(3), 848.302(a), 848.304(c), 848.305, 848.601(a)(2), and 848.606(a) of Board tire regulations (35 Ill. Adm. Code 848.202(b)(2), (b)(4), (b)(5), (c)(2), (c)(3), 848.204(c)(3), 848.302(a), 848.304(c), 848.305, 848.601(a)(2), and 848.606(a)). The People allege that respondents violated these provisions by failing to adhere to the tire management standard; the tire transportation standard; the record keeping and reporting obligation; and by allowing the accumulation of used tires beyond the statutory timeframe.

On July 30, 2015, the People and respondents 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) (2014)). This filing is authorized by Section 31(c)(2) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2014)), 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 the *Galena*

Gazette on August 19, 2015. 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) (2014); 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 respondents' 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) (2014)), which bears on the reasonableness of the circumstances surrounding the alleged violations. Respondents neither admit nor deny the alleged violations. The stipulation also addresses the factors of Section 42(h) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/42(h) (2014)), which may mitigate or aggravate the civil penalty amount. Respondents agree to pay a civil penalty of \$1,500. The People and respondents 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. Respondents must pay a civil penalty of \$1,500 no later than October 19, 2015, which is the first business day following the 30th day after the date of this order. Respondents 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 and case number must appear on the face of the certified check or money order.
3. Respondents 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

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

Christopher B. Grubb
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Bureau
Illinois Attorney General's Office
69 W. 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) (2014)) at the rate set forth in Section 1003(a) of the Illinois Income Tax Act (35 ILCS 5/1003(a) (2014)).
5. The Respondents shall cease and desist from future violations of the Act that were the subject matter 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) (2014); *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, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on September 17, 2015, by a vote of 5-0.



John T. Therriault, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board