

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
December 15, 2016

TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC	)	
COOPERATIVE, INC,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	PCB 17-21
	)	(UST Appeal)
	)	
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL	)	
PROTECTION AGENCY,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

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

On November 30, 2016, the Board received a petition from Tri-County Electric Cooperative, Inc. (petitioner) asking the Board to review an October 19, 2016, determination of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency). Petitioner received the Agency's determination on October 24, 2016 (Petition at 4), making the petition's filing due November 28, 2016, the 35th day after service. *See* 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(1) (2014); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(b), 105.402, 105.404, 105.406. Clerk's Office files, including payment of the filing fee on November 28, 2016, as well as e-mails to the Clerk from petitioner's counsel, make clear that petitioner attempted to upload the petition to the Clerk's Office On-Line (COOL) on November 28 but was unable to do so because of a technical failure beyond petitioner's control. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 101.1020(g) of the procedural rules, the Board finds the petition was filed on November 28, 2016, and is therefore timely. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.1020(g). The Agency's determination concerns petitioner's leaking underground storage tank (UST) site located at 3906 W. Broadway, Mt. Vernon, Jefferson County. For the reasons below, the Board accepts the petition for hearing.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5 (2014)), the Agency decides whether to approve proposed cleanup plans and budgets for leaking UST sites, as well as requests for cleanup cost reimbursement from the State's UST Fund, which consists of UST fees and motor fuel taxes. If the Agency disapproves or modifies a submittal, the UST owner or operator may appeal the decision to the Board. *See* 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(1), 57-57.17 (2014); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.Subpart D. In this case, the Agency reduced the maximum payment amounts, and eliminated consultant's materials. Petitioner appeals on the grounds that the costs did not exceed the maximum payment amounts. Petitioner's petition meets the content requirements of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.408.

The Board accepts the petition for hearing. Petitioner has the burden of proof. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.112(a). Hearings will be based exclusively on the record before the Agency at the time the Agency issued its determination. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.412. Accordingly, though the Board hearing affords petitioner the opportunity to challenge the Agency's reasons

for its decision, information developed after the Agency's decision typically is not admitted at hearing or considered by the Board. *See* Alton Packaging Corp. v. PCB, 162 Ill. App. 3d 731, 738, 516 N.E.2d 275, 280 (5th Dist. 1987); Community Landfill Co. & City of Morris v. IEPA, PCB 01-170 (Dec. 6, 2001), *aff'd sub nom. Community Landfill Co. & City of Morris v. PCB & IEPA*, 331 Ill. App. 3d 1056, 772 N.E.2d 231 (3rd Dist. 2002).

Upon its own motion or the motion of any party, the Board or the hearing officer may order that the hearing be held by videoconference. In deciding whether to hold the hearing by videoconference, factors that the Board or the hearing officer will consider include cost-effectiveness, efficiency, facility accommodations, witness availability, public interest, the parties' preferences, and the proceeding's complexity and contentiousness. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.600(b), 105.110.

Hearings will be scheduled and completed in a timely manner, consistent with the decision deadline (*see* 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(2) (2014)), which only petitioner may extend by waiver (*see* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.308). If the Board fails to take final action by the decision deadline, petitioner may deem its request granted. *See* 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(2) (2014). Currently, the decision deadline is March 30, 2017, which is the 120th day after the date on which the Board received the petition, November 30, 2016. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.114. The Board meeting immediately before the decision deadline is scheduled for March 16, 2017.

Unless the Board or the hearing officer orders otherwise, the Agency must file the entire record of its determination by December 30, 2016, which is the 30th day after the date on which the Board received the petition. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.116(a), 105.410(a). If the Agency wishes to seek additional time to file the record, it must file a request for extension before the date on which the record is due to be filed. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.116(a). The record must comply with the Board's requirements for content, organization, and certification. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.116(b), 105.410(b). In addition, the Agency must file the record electronically instead of in paper. Specifically, the record must be filed through COOL or on compact disk or other portable electronic data storage device and, to the extent technically feasible, in text-searchable Adobe PDF. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.302(h)(2)(A), 105.116(a).<sup>1</sup>

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, John T. Therriault, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on December 15, 2016, by a vote of 4-0, Member Santos voted Present.



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John T. Therriault, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board

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<sup>1</sup> Any questions about filing the record in an electronic format should be directed to the Clerk's Office at 312-814-3629.

