

FORMAL COMPLAINT

Before the Illinois Pollution Control Board

Celeste Tapia)
)
 Michael W. Edwards)
)
 Complainant(s),)
)
 v.)
)
)
)
 Miller Container Corporation)
)
 Respondent(s))

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CLERK'S OFFICE

NOV 07 2018

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

PCB 20 19 -7 /
[For Board use only]

 ORIGINAL

Note to the Complainant: If you do not use this Formal Complaint form and instead draft and type your own, it must contain all of the information requested by this form. All items must be completed. If there is insufficient space to complete any item, you may attach additional sheets, specifying the number of the item you are completing. Once you have completed the Formal Complaint, the Notice of Filing, and the Documentation of Service, you must "file" these three documents with the Clerk of the Board and "serve" a copy of each document on each respondent. Specific requirements for the filing, service, and contents of these documents are set forth in the Board's procedural rules (35 Ill. Adm. Code 101, 103) and addressed in the explanatory materials accompanying this form.

1. Your Contact Information

Name: Michael W. Edwards and Celeste Tapia
Street Address: 8621 35th Street West
Milan
County: Rock Island
State: IL
Phone Number: (309) 787 - 6539

2. Place where you can be contacted during normal business hours (if different from above)

Name: Michael W. Edwards
Street Address: _____

County: _____
State: _____
Phone Number: (309) 781 - 6790 mobile

3. Name and address of the respondent (alleged polluter)

Name: Miller Container Corporation
Street Address: 3402 78th Avenue West
Rock Island | IL 61201-7331
County: Rock Island
State: IL
Phone Number: (309) 787- 6161

4. Describe the type of business or activity that you allege is causing or allowing pollution (e.g., manufacturing company, home repair shop) and give the address of the pollution source if different than the address above.

Miller Container manufactures packaging solutions per their website.
There are two cyclone machines located at this plant that are
causing the noise pollution that we are experiencing at our home
located approximately 1/2 mile away.

5. List specific sections of the Environmental Protection Act, Board regulations, Board order, or permit that you allege have been or are being violated.

(415 ILCS 5/23) (from Ch. 111 1/2, par. 1023)

(415 ILCS 5/24) (from Ch. 111 1/2, par. 1024)

(415 ILCS 5/25) (from Ch. 111 1/2, par. 1025)

6. Describe the type of pollution that you allege (e.g., air, odor, noise, water, sewer back-ups, hazardous waste) and the location of the alleged pollution. Be as specific as you reasonably can in describing the alleged pollution.

The type of pollution is noise. At times the noise resembles a weather alert warning. Mostly the noise is like a large fan or jet engine that we are subjected to even with all the windows closed.

7. Describe the duration and frequency of the alleged pollution. Be as specific as you reasonably can about when you first noticed the alleged pollution, how frequently it occurs, and whether it is still continuing (include seasons of the year, dates, and times of day if known).

We first called about the noise problem in March of 2018. The noise is nearly constant. It is a high pitch, air noise that goes on for hours. There are some breaks during the weekends and holidays. We have made multiple recordings of the noise.

We called the police department 5 times between March and May of 2018. We contacted Roe Oelke, our County Board member, several times by phone prior to May 22, 2018 and by email on May 22, 2018. We received email responses from Roe Oelke on May 22, 24, 30, and 31 of 2018. We contacted Representative Mike Halpin by email on May 21 and received a response from his office by email on May 24.

We were given a contact to work with at Miller Container Corporation: Sean McGuire, Business Unit Manager. Working with Sean McGuire has not produced any results as we continue to experience the same amount of noise pollution at our property.

8. Describe any bad effects that you believe the alleged pollution has or has had on human health, on plant or animal life, on the environment, on the enjoyment of life or property, or on any lawful business or activity.

The noise is causing both of us to lose enjoyment of our property.

The noise is wearing on our nerves. It is causing anxiety and stress and irritability and anger. It is causing upset stomach problems and chest pain.

We have thought about selling our property to get away from the noise. We worry about loss of property value.

9. Describe the relief that you seek from the Board (e.g., an order requiring that the respondent stop polluting, take pollution abatement measures, perform a cleanup, reimburse cleanup costs, change its operation, or pay a civil penalty (note that the Board cannot order the respondent to pay your attorney fees or any out-of-pocket expenses that you incur by pursuing an enforcement action)).

We want the noise to stop. We have been neighbors since 1999.

Previous to this past March there were only a few times when the manufacturing plant was producing noise at the level that we had to call the police about. Therefore, we know the noise can be controlled. We want an order requiring the respondent to stop generating noise that reaches our property. We want a deadline to be given and, if not met, we want the respondent to pay civil penalties until the order requirement is met.

10. Identify any identical or substantially similar case you know of brought before the Board or in another forum against this respondent for the same alleged pollution (note that you need not include any complaints made to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency or any unit of local government).

We are unaware of any identical or similar case brought against this respondent.

11. State whether you are representing (a) yourself as an individual or (b) your unincorporated sole proprietorship. Also, state whether you are an attorney and, if so, whether you are licensed and registered to practice law in Illinois. (Under Illinois law, an association, citizens group, unit of local government, or corporation must be represented before the Board by an attorney. Also, an individual who is not an attorney cannot represent another individual or other individuals before the Board. However, an individual who is not an attorney is allowed to represent (a) himself or herself as an individual or (b) his or her unincorporated sole proprietorship, though the individual may prefer having attorney representation.)

We, husband and wife, the property owners at 8621 35th St. W., are representing ourselves. Neither of us are an attorney.

12. *Celeste Tapia*
(Complainant's signature)

Michael W. Edwards

CERTIFICATION
(optional but encouraged)

I, *Celeste Tapia*, *Michael Edwards*, on oath or affirmation, state that I have read the foregoing and that it is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Celeste Tapia *Michael Edwards*
(Complainant's signature)

Subscribed to and sworn before me

this *29th* day

of *October*, 20*18*.

Pamela Jean Spilman
Notary Public

Pamela Jean Spilman

My commission expires: *02/15/2021*



NOTICE OF FILING

Note to the Complainant: This Notice of Filing must accompany the Formal Complaint and the Documentation of Service. Once you have completed the Notice of Filing, the Formal Complaint, and the Documentation of Service, you must file these three documents with the Board's Clerk *and* serve a copy of each document on each respondent.

Please take notice that today, ^{we,} Celeste Tapia and Michael W Edwards, filed with the Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board (Board) a Formal Complaint, a copy of which is served on you along with this Notice of Filing. You may be required to attend a hearing on a date set by the Board.

Failure to file an answer to this complaint within 60 days may have severe consequences. Failure to answer will mean that all allegations in the complaint will be taken as if admitted for purposes of this proceeding. If you have any questions about this procedure, you should contact the hearing officer assigned to this proceeding, the Clerk's Office or an attorney. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.204(f).

 
Complainant's signature

Street 8621 35th Street West

City, state, zip code Milan, IL 61264

Date October 30, 2018

INFORMATION FOR RESPONDENT RECEIVING FORMAL COMPLAINT

The following information has been prepared by the Board for general informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice or substitute for the provisions of any statute, rule, or regulation. Information about the Formal Complaint process before the Board is found in the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5) and the Board's procedural rules (35 Ill. Adm. Code 101, 103). These can be accessed on the Board's website (www.ipcb.state.il.us). The following is a summary of some of the most important points in the Act and the Board's procedural rules.

Board Accepting Formal Complaint for Hearing; Motions

The Board will not accept this Formal Complaint for hearing if the Board finds that it is either "duplicative" or "frivolous" within the meaning of Section 31(d)(1) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/31(d)(1)) and Section 101.202 of the Board's procedural rules (35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.202 (definitions of the terms "duplicative" and "frivolous")). "Duplicative" means the complaint is identical or substantially similar to a case brought before the Board or another forum. See 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.212(a) and item 10 of the Formal Complaint.

“Frivolous” means that the Formal Complaint seeks relief that the Board does not have the authority to grant or fails to state a cause of action upon which the Board can grant relief. For example, the Board has the authority to order a respondent to stop polluting and pay a civil penalty, to implement pollution abatement measures, or to perform a cleanup or reimburse cleanup costs. The Board does not have the authority, however, to award attorney fees to a citizen complainant. See 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.212(a) and items 5 through 9 of the Formal Complaint.

If you believe that this Formal Complaint is duplicative or frivolous, you may file a motion with the Board, within 30 days after the date you received the complaint, requesting that the Board not accept the complaint for hearing. The motion must state the facts supporting your belief that the complaint is duplicative or frivolous. Memoranda, affidavits, and any other relevant documents may accompany the motion. See 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.504, 103.212(b). If you need more than 30 days to file a motion alleging that the complaint is duplicative or frivolous, you must file a motion for an extension of time within 30 days after you received the complaint. A motion for an extension of time must state why you need more time and the amount of additional time you need. Timely filing a motion alleging that the Formal Complaint is duplicative or frivolous will stay the 60-day period for filing an Answer to the complaint. See 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.204(e), 103.212(b); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.506 (generally, all motions to strike, dismiss, or challenge the sufficiency of any pleading must be filed within 30 days after service of the challenged document).

The party making a motion must “file” the motion with the Board’s Clerk and “serve” a copy of the motion on each of the other parties to the proceeding. The Board’s filing and service requirements are set forth in its procedural rules (35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300, 101.302, 101.304), which are located on the Board’s website (www.ipcb.state.il.us).

If you do not file a motion with the Board within 30 days after the date on which you received the Formal Complaint, the Board may find that the complaint is not duplicative or frivolous and accept the case for hearing without any input from you. The Board will then assign a hearing officer who will contact you to schedule times for holding telephone status conferences and a hearing. See 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.212(a).

Answer to Complaint

You have the right to file an Answer to this Formal Complaint within 60 days after you receive the complaint. If you timely file a motion alleging that the complaint is duplicative or frivolous, or a motion to strike, dismiss, or challenge the sufficiency of the complaint, then you may file an Answer within 60 days after the Board rules on your motion. See 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.506, 103.204(d), (e), 103.212(b).

Failing to file an Answer to the Formal Complaint within 60 days after you were served with the complaint may have severe consequences. Failure to timely file an Answer will mean that all allegations in the Formal Complaint will be taken as if you admitted them

for purposes of this proceeding. If you have any questions about this procedure, you should contact the hearing officer assigned to this proceeding, the Clerk's Office, or an attorney. See 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.204(f).

Necessity of an Attorney

Under Illinois law, an association, citizens group, unit of local government, or corporation must be represented before the Board by an attorney. In addition, an individual who is not an attorney cannot represent another individual or other individuals before the Board. However, even if an individual is not an attorney, he or she is allowed to represent (1) himself or herself as an individual or (2) his or her unincorporated sole proprietorship. See 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.400(a). Such an individual may nevertheless wish to have an attorney prepare an Answer and any motions or briefs, and present a defense at hearing.

Costs

In defending against this Formal Complaint, you are responsible for your attorney fees, duplicating charges, travel expenses, witness fees, and any other costs that you or your attorney may incur. The Board requires no filing fee to file with the Board your Answer or any other document in the enforcement proceeding. The Board will pay its own hearing costs (e.g., hearing room rental, court reporting fees, hearing officer expenses).

If you have any questions, please contact the Clerk's Office at (312) 814-3461.

DOCUMENTATION OF SERVICE

Note to the Complainant: This Documentation of Service must accompany the Formal Complaint and the Notice of Filing. Once you have completed the Documentation of Service, the Formal Complaint, and the Notice of Filing, you must file these three documents with the Board's Clerk *and* serve a copy of each document on each respondent.

This form for the Documentation of Service is designed for use by a non-attorney and must be notarized, *i.e.*, it is an "affidavit" of service. An attorney may modify the form for use as a "certificate" of service, which is not required to be notarized.

Affidavit of Service

I, the undersigned, on oath or affirmation, state that on the date shown below, I served copies of the attached Formal Complaint and Notice of Filing on the respondent at the address listed below by one of the following methods: [*check only one—A, B, C, D, or E*]

A. _____ U.S. Mail or third-party commercial carrier with the recipient's signature recorded by the U.S. Postal Service or the third-party commercial carrier upon delivery. Attached is the delivery confirmation from the U.S. Postal Service or the third-party commercial carrier containing the recipient's signature and showing the date of delivery as _____ [month/date], 20___. [*Attach the signed delivery confirmation showing the date of delivery.*]

B. **U.S. Mail** or third-party commercial carrier **with a recipient's signature** recorded or **to be recorded by the U.S. Postal Service** or the third-party commercial carrier upon delivery. However, the delivery confirmation from the U.S. Postal Service or the third-party commercial carrier containing the recipient's signature is not available to me at this time. On October 30 [month/date], 2018, by the time of 5:00 PM, at 2633 11th Street Rock Island, IL [*address where you provided the documents to the U.S. Postal Service or the third-party commercial carrier*], copies of the attached Formal Complaint and Notice of Filing were provided to the U.S. Postal Service or the third-party commercial carrier, with the respondent's address appearing on the envelope or package containing these documents, and with proper postage or delivery charge prepaid. [*Within seven days after it becomes available to you, file with the Board's Clerk the delivery confirmation—containing the recipient's signature and showing the date of delivery—and identify the Formal Complaint to which that delivery confirmation corresponds.*]

C. _____ Personal service and I made the personal delivery on _____ [month/date], 20__, by the time of __:__ AM/PM.

D. _____ Personal service and another person made the personal delivery. Attached is the affidavit of service signed by the other person (or the declaration of service signed by the process server) who made the personal delivery, showing the date of delivery as

_____ [month/date], 20___. [Attach the other person's signed affidavit or declaration showing the date of delivery.]

E. _____ Personal service and another person made or will make the personal delivery. However, the affidavit of service signed by the other person (or the declaration of service signed by the process server) who made or will make the personal delivery is not available to me at this time. On _____ [month/date], 20__, by the time of __:__ AM/PM, at

[address where you provided the documents to the person making the personal delivery], copies of the attached Formal Complaint and Notice of Filing were provided to _____ [name of the person making the personal delivery], with the respondent's address appearing on the envelope or package containing these documents, and with proper delivery charge prepaid. [Within seven days after it becomes available to you, file with the Board's Clerk the affidavit or declaration of service—containing the signature of the person who made personal delivery and showing the date of delivery—and identify the Formal Complaint to which that affidavit or declaration corresponds.]

RESPONDENT'S ADDRESS:

Name Miller Container Corporation, Rock Island, Illinois Headquarter
Street 3402 78th Ave W
P.O. Box 1130 Milan, IL 61264

City, state, zip code Rock Island | IL 61201-7331
(list each respondent's name and address if multiple respondents)

Michael S. ... Christa ...
Complainant's signature

Street 8621 35th Street West

City, state, zip code Milan, IL 61264

Date October 30, 2018

Subscribed to and sworn before me

this _____ day

of _____, 20__.

Notary Public

My commission expires: _____