

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
January 5, 2006

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|--|---|---------------------------|
| MARATHON ASHLAND PETROLEUM, |) | |
| LLC |) | |
| (Cooling Tower Drift Eliminators (Property |) | |
| Identification Number 51-34-1-21)), |) | |
| |) | |
| Petitioner, |) | |
| |) | |
| v. |) | PCB 06-96 |
| |) | (Tax Certification - Air) |
| ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL |) | |
| PROTECTION AGENCY, |) | |
| |) | |
| Respondent. |) | |

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by G.T. Girard):

On December 13, 2005, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) recommended that the Board certify certain facilities of Marathon Ashland Petroleum, LLC (Marathon Ashland Petroleum) as “pollution control facilities” for preferential tax treatment under the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/11-5 *et seq.* (2004)). The facilities are cooling tower drift eliminators at Marathon Ashland Petroleum’s petroleum refinery in Robinson, Crawford County. The Agency filed the recommendation under Part 125 of the Board’s procedural rules (35 Ill. Adm. Code 125). In this order, the Board describes the legal framework for tax certifications, discusses the Agency’s recommendation, and certifies that Marathon Ashland Petroleum’s facilities are pollution control facilities.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Under the Property Tax Code, “[i]t is the policy of this State that pollution control facilities should be valued, at 33 1/3% of the fair cash value of their economic productivity to their owners.” 35 ILCS 200/11-5 (2004); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.200(a)(2). “For tax purposes, pollution control facilities shall be certified as such by the Pollution Control Board and shall be assessed by the Department [of Revenue].” 35 ILCS 200/11-20 (2004); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.200(a).

Under Section 125.202 of the Board’s procedural rules, a person may submit an application for tax certification to the Agency. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.202. If the Agency receives a tax certification application, the Agency must file with the Board a recommendation on the application, unless the applicant withdraws the application. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.204(a). Among other things, the Agency’s filing must recommend that the Board issue or deny tax certification. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.204(a)(4). If the Board finds “that the claimed facility or relevant portion thereof is a pollution control facility . . . , the Pollution Control Board . . . shall

enter a finding and issue a certificate to that effect.” 35 ILCS 200/11-25 (2004); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.216(a).

AGENCY RECOMMENDATION

The Agency states that it received a tax certification application from Marathon Ashland Petroleum for its cooling tower drift eliminators at Marathon Ashland Petroleum’s petroleum refinery on December 30, 2004. Agency Rec. at 1. On December 13, 2005, the Agency filed a recommendation on the application with the Board. The Agency’s recommendation identifies the facilities at issue:

Cooling Tower Drift Eliminators, which are designed to act as a means of reducing particulate matter emissions caused when water droplets normally exit the system, by allowing water droplets to form on the eliminators themselves and drop from the tower by gravity, rather than carrying up the cooling tower and being emitted as water vapor. Agency Rec. at 1-2.

The Agency’s recommendation also identifies the location of the facilities: 100 Marathon Avenue, Robinson, in Crawford County. *Id.*, attached Agency Technical Recommendation for Tax Certification Approval.

The Agency recommends that the Board certify that the identified facilities are pollution control facilities as defined in Section 11-10 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/11-10 (2004)) because the primary purpose of the facilities is eliminating, preventing, or reducing air pollution. The facilities are used to reduce particulate matter emissions caused when water droplets normally exit the system. Agency Rec. at 1-2.

TAX CERTIFICATE

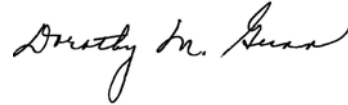
The Board finds and certifies that Marathon Ashland Petroleum’s facilities identified in this order are pollution control facilities under the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/11-10 (2004)). Under Section 11-25 of the Property Tax Code, the effective date of this certificate is “the date of application for the certificate or the date of the construction of the facility, which ever is later.” 35 ILCS 200/11-25 (2004); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.216(a). Section 125.216(d) of the Board’s procedural rules states that the Clerk “will provide the applicant and the Agency with a copy of the Board’s order setting forth *the Board’s findings and certificate, if any.*” 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.216(d) (quoting in italics 35 ILCS 200/11-30 (2004)). The Clerk therefore will provide Marathon Ashland Petroleum and the Agency with a copy of this order.

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) (2004); *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, Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on January 5, 2006, by a vote of 4-0.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dorothy M. Gunn".

Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board