

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
September 20, 2007

WILLINGHAM FARMS, )  
)  
Petitioner, )  
)  
v. ) PCB 07-121  
) (UST Appeal)  
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL )  
PROTECTION AGENCY, )  
)  
Respondent. )

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

On June 7, 2007, at the parties' request, the Board extended until September 7, 2007, the time period for Willingham Farms to appeal a May 2, 2007 determination of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency). On September 7, 2007, Willingham Farms timely filed a petition asking the Board to review the Agency's determination. *See* 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(1) (2006); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(b), 105.402, 105.406. The Agency's determination concerns Willingham Farms' leaking petroleum underground storage tank (UST) site at 5713 Shawnee College Road, Ullin, Pulaski County. For the reasons below, the Board accepts Willingham Farms' petition for hearing.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5 (2006)), the Agency decides whether to approve proposed cleanup plans 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 (2006); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.Subpart D. In this case, the Agency denied Willingham Farms' Corrective Action Plan and Budget. Petition at 2-4. Willingham Farms appeals on the grounds that the Agency exceeded its authority by requiring the submission of information that was not required under the applicable regulations. *Id.* at 3. Willingham Farms' petition meets the content requirements of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.408.

The Board accepts the petition for hearing. Willingham Farms 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).

Hearings will be scheduled and completed in a timely manner, consistent with the decision deadline (*see* 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(2) (2006)), which only Willingham Farms may extend by waiver (*see* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.308). If the Board fails to take final action by the decision deadline, Willingham Farms may deem its request granted. *See* 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(2) (2006). Currently, the decision deadline is January 7, 2008, which is the first business day following the 120th day after the Board received the petition. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(a), 105.114. The Board meeting immediately before the decision deadline is scheduled for December 20, 2007.

Unless the Board or the hearing officer orders otherwise, the Agency must file the entire record of its determination by October 9, 2007, which is the first business day following the 30th day after the Board received Willingham Farms' petition. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 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. The record must comply with the content requirements of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.410(b).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, John Therriault, Assistant Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on September 20, 2007, by a vote of 4-0.



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John Therriault, Assistant Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board