



RECEIVED
CLERK'S OFFICE

OCT 02 2007

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

September 28, 2007

John Therriault, Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center, Ste. 11-500
100 West Randolph
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: ***People v. J & S Companies, Inc., et al.***
PCB 06-33

Dear Clerk Gunn:

Enclosed for filing please find the original and ten copies of a Notice of Filing, Motion for Relief from Hearing Requirement and Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement in regard to the above-captioned matter. Please file the originals and return file-stamped copies to me in the enclosed, self-addressed envelope.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration.

Very truly yours,

Kristen Laughridge Gale
Environmental Bureau
500 South Second Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706
(217) 782-9031

KLG/pjk
Enclosures

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

RECEIVED
CLERK'S OFFICE

OCT 02 2007

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF)
ILLINOIS,)

Complainant,)

vs.)

J & S COMPANIES, INC., a Missouri)
corporation, and FIRST CHOICE)
CONSTRUCTION, INC., an Illinois)
corporation,)

Respondents.)

PCB No. 06-33
(Enforcement)

NOTICE OF FILING

To: Steve Hedinger
Hedinger Law Office
2601 South Fifth Street
Springfield, IL 62703

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on this date I mailed for filing with the Clerk of the Pollution Control Board of the State of Illinois, a NOTICE OF FILING, MOTION FOR RELIEF FOR HEARING REQUIREMENT and STIPULATION AND PROPOSAL FOR SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AND FIRST CHOICE CONSTRUCTION, INC., a copy of which is attached hereto and herewith served upon you.

Respectfully submitted,

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

LISA MADIGAN,
Attorney General of the
State of Illinois

MATTHEW J. DUNN, Chief
Environmental Enforcement/Asbestos
Litigation Division

BY: 

KRISTEN LAUGHRIDGE GALE
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Bureau

500 South Second Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706
217/782-9031
Dated: September 28, 2007

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I did on September 28, 2007, send by First Class Mail, with postage thereon fully prepaid, by depositing in a United States Post Office Box a true and correct copy of the following instruments entitled NOTICE OF FILING, MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM HEARING REQUIREMENT and STIPULATION AND PROPOSAL FOR SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AND FIRST CHOICE CONSTRUCTION, INC.

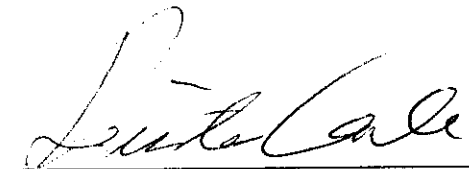
To: Steve Hedinger
Hedinger Law Office
2601 South Fifth Street
Springfield, IL 62703

and the original and ten copies by First Class Mail with postage thereon fully prepaid of the same foregoing instrument(s):

To: John Therriault, Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center
Suite 11-500
100 West Randolph
Chicago, Illinois 60601

A copy was also sent by First Class Mail with postage thereon fully prepaid to:

Carol Webb
Hearing Officer
Illinois Pollution Control Board
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Springfield, IL 62794


Kristin Laughridge Gale
Assistant Attorney General

This filing is submitted on recycled paper.

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
)
Complainant,)
)
v.)
)
J & S COMPANIES, INC., a Missouri)
corporation, and FIRST CHOICE)
CONSTRUCTION, INC., an Illinois)
corporation,)
)
Respondents.)

PCB No. 06-33
(Enforcement - Land)

RECEIVED
CLERK'S OFFICE

OCT 02 2007

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

MOTION FOR RELIEF FROM HEARING REQUIREMENT

NOW COMES Complainant, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, by LISA MADIGAN, Attorney General of the State of Illinois, and pursuant to Section 31(c)(2) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act ("Act"), 415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2006), moves that the Illinois Pollution Control Board grant the parties in the above-captioned matter relief from the hearing requirement imposed by Section 31(c)(1) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/31(c)(1) (2006). In support of this motion, Complainant states as follows:

1. The parties have reached agreement on all outstanding issues in this matter.
2. This agreement is presented to the Board in a Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement, filed contemporaneously with this motion.
3. All parties agree that a hearing on the Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement is not necessary, and respectfully request relief from such a hearing as allowed by Section 31(c)(2) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2006).

WHEREFORE, Complainant, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, hereby requests that the Board grant this motion for relief from the hearing requirement set forth in Section 31(c)(1) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/31(c)(1) (2006).

Respectfully submitted,

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
LISA MADIGAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MATTHEW J. DUNN, Chief
Environmental Enforcement/Asbestos
Litigation Division

BY: 

KRISTEN LAUGHRIDGE GALE
Environmental Bureau
Assistant Attorney General

500 South Second Street
Springfield, Illinois 62706
217/782-9031
Dated: September 28, 2007

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

RECEIVED
CLERK'S OFFICE

OCT 02 2007

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
vs.)	No. PCB 06-33
)	(Enforcement - Land)
J & S COMPANIES, INC., a Missouri)	
corporation, and FIRST CHOICE)	
CONSTRUCTION, INC., an Illinois)	
corporation,)	
)	
Respondents.)	

**STIPULATION AND PROPOSAL FOR SETTLEMENT BETWEEN
THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AND FIRST CHOICE CONSTRUCTION, INC.**

Complainant, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, by LISA MADIGAN, Attorney General of the State of Illinois, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency ("Illinois EPA"), and FIRST CHOICE CONSTRUCTION, INC. ("Respondent"), have agreed to the making of this Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement ("Stipulation") and submit it to the Illinois Pollution Control Board ("Board") for approval. The parties agree that the statement of facts contained herein represents a fair summary of the evidence and testimony which would be introduced by the parties if a hearing were held. The parties further stipulate that this statement of facts is made and agreed upon for purposes of settlement only and that neither the fact that a party has entered into this Stipulation, nor any of the facts stipulated herein, shall be introduced into evidence in any other proceeding regarding the claims asserted in the Complaint except as otherwise provided herein. If the Board approves and enters this Stipulation, Respondent agrees to be bound by the Stipulation and Board Order and not to contest their validity in any subsequent proceeding to implement or enforce their terms.

I. JURISDICTION

The Board has jurisdiction of the subject matter herein and of the parties consenting hereto pursuant to the Illinois Environmental Protection Act ("Act"), 415 ILCS 5/1 et seq. (2004).

II. AUTHORIZATION

The undersigned representatives for each party certify that they are fully authorized by the party whom they represent to enter into the terms and conditions of this Stipulation and to legally bind them to it.

III. STATEMENT OF FACTS

A. Parties

1. On September 1, 2005, a Complaint was filed on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois by Lisa Madigan, Attorney General of the State of Illinois, on her own motion and upon the request of the Illinois EPA, pursuant to Section 31 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/31(2004), against the Respondent.

2. The Illinois EPA is an administrative agency of the State of Illinois, created pursuant to Section 4 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/4 (2004).

3. At all times relevant to the Complaint, Respondent, First Choice Construction, Inc., ("First Choice") was and is an Illinois corporation that is authorized to transact business in the State of Illinois.

B. Site Description

1. At all times relevant to the Complaint, Respondent owned and operated a trucking company located in St. Clair County, Illinois.

2. During 2003, J&S Companies, Inc. ("J&S"), demolished the Lansdowne Junior High School in East St. Louis, St. Clair County, Illinois, pursuant to a contract with the Board of Education–School District 189. J&S hired First Choice to haul the construction and demolition debris from the school demolition site.

3. Starting on or about February 6, 2003 until about December 3, 2003, First Choice with the knowledge of J&S, hauled approximately 92 truckloads of construction and demolition debris from the school demolition site to property located at 7401 Bunkum Road in East St. Louis ("disposal site").

C. Allegations of Non-Compliance

Complainant contends that the Respondent has violated the following provisions of the Act and Board regulations:

Count I: Waste Disposal Violations: Sections 21(a), 21(d), 21(e), & 21(p)(1) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/21(a), 21(d), 21(e), & 21(p)(1) (2004).

Count II: Demolition Debris Violations: Section 21(p)(7) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/21(p)(7)(2004).

D. Admission of Violations

The Respondent admits to the violations alleged in the Complaint filed in this matter and referenced within Section III.C herein.

E. Compliance Activities to Date

From approximately December 30, 2003 until April 27, 2004, First Choice and J&S removed the wood, metal and paper waste from the construction and demolition debris at the disposal site.

IV. APPLICABILITY

This Stipulation shall apply to and be binding upon the Complainant and the Respondent, and any officer, director, agent, or employee of the Respondent, as well as any successors or assigns of the Respondent. The Respondent shall not raise as a defense to any enforcement action taken pursuant to this Stipulation the failure of any of its officers, directors, agents, employees or successors or assigns to take such action as shall be required to comply with the provisions of this Stipulation.

1. No change in ownership, corporate status or operator of the facility shall in any way alter the responsibilities of the Respondent under this Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement. In the event of any conveyance of title, easement or other interest in the facility, the Respondent shall continue to be bound by and remain liable for performance of all obligations under this Stipulation.

V. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

This Stipulation in no way affects the responsibilities of the Respondent to comply with any other federal, state or local laws or regulations including, but not limited to, the Act and the Board regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code, Subtitles A through H.

VI. IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC RESULTING FROM ALLEGED NON-COMPLIANCE

Section 33(c) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/33(c)(2004), provides as follows:

In making its orders and determinations, the Board shall take into consideration all the facts and circumstances bearing upon the reasonableness of the emissions, discharges, or deposits involved including, but not limited to:

1. the character and degree of injury to, or interference with the protection of the health, general welfare and physical property of the people;
2. the social and economic value of the pollution source;
3. the suitability or unsuitability of the pollution source to the area in which it is located, including the question of priority of location in the area involved;
4. the technical practicability and economic reasonableness of reducing or eliminating the emissions, discharges or deposits resulting from such pollution source; and
5. any subsequent compliance.

In response to these factors, the parties state the following:

1. Human health and the environment were threatened by the Respondent's violations.
2. There is social and economic benefit to hauling construction and demolition debris to a legal site.
3. Hauling demolition and construction debris to a proper disposal site, including but not limited to a landfill, is suitable for the area.
4. Hauling demolition and construction debris to a proper disposal site is both technically practicable and economically reasonable.
5. Respondent has subsequently complied with the Act and the Board Regulations.

VII. CONSIDERATION OF SECTION 42(h) FACTORS

Section 42(h) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/42(h)(2004), provides as follows:

In determining the appropriate civil penalty to be imposed under . . . this Section, the Board is authorized to consider any matters of record in mitigation or aggravation of penalty, including but not limited to the following factors:

1. the duration and gravity of the violation;
2. the presence or absence of due diligence on the part of the respondent in attempting to comply with requirements of this Act and regulations thereunder or to secure relief therefrom as provided by this Act;
3. any economic benefits accrued by the respondent because of delay in compliance with requirements, in which case the economic benefits shall be determined by the lowest cost alternative for achieving compliance;
4. the amount of monetary penalty which will serve to deter further violations by the respondent and to otherwise aid in enhancing voluntary compliance with this Act by the respondent and other persons similarly subject to the Act;
5. the number, proximity in time, and gravity of previously adjudicated violations of this Act by the respondent;
6. whether the respondent voluntarily self-disclosed, in accordance with subsection i of this Section, the non-compliance to the Agency; and
7. whether the respondent has agreed to undertake a "supplemental environmental project," which means an environmentally beneficial project that a respondent agrees to undertake in settlement of an enforcement action brought under this Act, but which the respondent is not otherwise legally required to perform.

In response to these factors, the parties state as follows:

1. The Respondent improperly disposed of construction and demolition debris from a demolition site and caused or allowed the open dumping of general construction and demolition debris in a manner resulting in litter. The Respondent conducted a waste-storage or waste-disposal operation without a permit granted by the Illinois EPA and in violation of the

Board regulations and standards, and disposed, stored or transported waste at and to a site which did not meet the requirements of the Act and standards and regulations promulgated thereunder. These violations started on or about February 6, 2003 until on or about December 3, 2003.

2. Upon notice of its violations, Respondent was diligent in attempting to come back into compliance with the Act, Board regulations and applicable federal regulations, by removing the waste from the site.

3. There was an economic benefit for disposing of the waste for no cost instead of properly disposing it in a landfill.

4. Complainant has determined, based upon the specific facts of this matter, that a penalty of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) will serve to deter further violations and aid in future voluntary compliance with the Act and Board regulations.

5. To Complainant's knowledge, Respondent has no previously adjudicated violations of the Act.

6. Respondent did not self report the violations.

7. The adjudication of this matter does not include a supplemental environmental project.

VIII. TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

A. Penalty Payment

1. The Respondent shall pay a civil penalty in the sum of Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) within thirty (30) days from the date the Board adopts and accepts this Stipulation. The Respondent stipulates that payment has been tendered to Respondent's attorney of record in

this matter in a form acceptable to that attorney. Further, Respondent stipulates that said attorney has been directed to make the penalty payment on behalf of Respondent, within thirty (30) days from the date the Board adopts and accepts this Stipulation, in a manner prescribed below. The penalty described in this Stipulation shall be paid by certified check, money order or electronic funds transfer payable to the Illinois EPA, designated to the Illinois Environmental Protection Trust Fund and submitted to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Fiscal Services Section
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

The name and number of the case and Respondent's Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN), _____, shall appear on the check. A copy of the certified check, money order or record of electronic funds transfer and any transmittal letter shall be sent to:

Kristen Laughridge Gale
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Bureau
500 South Second Street
Springfield, Illinois 62702

Melanie Jarvis
Assistant Counsel
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

2. Pursuant to Section 42(g) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/42(g) (2004), interest shall accrue on any payment not paid within the time period prescribed above at the maximum rate allowable under Section 1003(a) of the Illinois Income Tax Act, 35 ILCS 5/1003 (2004). Interest

on any unpaid payment shall begin to accrue from the date the payment is due and continue to accrue until the date payment is received. When partial payment(s) are made, such partial payment shall be first applied to any interest on unpaid payment then due and owing. All interest on payment owed shall be paid by certified check, money order or electronic funds transfer, payable to the Illinois EPA, designated to the Illinois Environmental Protection Trust Fund and delivered to the address and in the manner described above.

3. For purposes of payment and collection, Respondent may be reached at the following address:

Michael R. Bowman
First Choice Construction, Inc.
6021 Devonshire Ave.
St Louis, MO 63109

4. In the event of default of this Section VIII.A, the Complainant shall be entitled to all available relief including, but not limited to, reasonable costs of collection and reasonable attorney's fees.

B. Future Use

Notwithstanding any other language in this Stipulation to the contrary, and in consideration of the mutual promises and conditions contained in this Stipulation, including the Release from Liability contained in Section VIII.D., below, the Respondent hereby agrees that this Stipulation may be used against the Respondent in any subsequent enforcement action or permit proceeding as proof of a past adjudication of violation of the Act and the Board Regulations promulgated thereunder for all violations alleged in the Complaint in this matter, for

purposes of Section 39(a) and (i) and/or 42(h) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/39(a) and(i) and/or 5/42(h)(2004). Further, Respondent agrees to waive any rights to contest, in any subsequent enforcement action or permit proceeding, any allegations that these alleged violations were adjudicated.

C. Cease and Desist

The Respondent shall cease and desist from future violations of the Act and Board Regulations that were the subject matter of the Complaint as outlined in Section III.C ("Allegations of Non-Compliance") of this Stipulation.

D. Release from Liability

In consideration of the Respondent's payment of the \$2,000.00 penalty and any specified costs and accrued interest, completion of all activities required hereunder, to Cease and Desist as contained in Section VIII.C. and upon the Pollution Control Board's acceptance and approval of the terms of this Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement, the Complainant releases, waives and discharges the Respondent from any further liability or penalties for violations of the Act and Board Regulations that were the subject matter of the Complaint herein. The release set forth above does not extend to any matters other than those expressly specified in Complainant's Complaint filed on September 1, 2005. The Complainant reserves, and this Stipulation is without prejudice to, all rights of the State of Illinois against the Respondent with respect to all other matters, including but not limited to, the following:

- a. criminal liability;

- b. liability for future violation of state, federal, local, and common laws and/or regulations;
- c. liability for natural resources damage arising out of the alleged violations; and
- d. liability or claims based on the Respondent's failure to satisfy the requirements of this Stipulation.

Nothing in this Stipulation is intended as a waiver, discharge, release, or covenant not to sue for any claim or cause of action, administrative or judicial, civil or criminal, past or future, in law or in equity, which the State of Illinois or the Illinois EPA may have against any person, as defined by Section 3.315 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/3.315, or entity other than the Respondent.

E. Modification of Stipulation

The parties may, by mutual written consent, agree to extend any compliance dates or modify the terms of this Stipulation. A request for any modification shall be made in writing and submitted to the contact persons identified in Section VIII.A. Any such request shall be made by separate document, and shall not be submitted within any other report or submittal required by this Stipulation. Any such agreed modification shall be in writing, signed by authorized representatives of each party, and then accompany a joint motion to the Illinois Pollution Control Board seeking a modification of the prior order approving and accepting the Stipulation to approve and accept the Stipulation as amended.

F. Enforcement of Board Order

1. Upon the entry of the Board's Order approving and accepting this Stipulation and

Proposal for Settlement, that Order is a binding and enforceable order of the Illinois Pollution Control Board and may be enforced as such through any and all available means.

2. Respondent agrees that notice of any subsequent proceeding to enforce the Board Order approving and accepting this Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement may be made by mail and waives any requirement of service of process.

3. The parties agree that, if the Board does not approve and accept this Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement, then neither party is bound by the terms herein.

4. It is the intent of the Complainant and Respondent that the provisions of this Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement and any Board Order accepting and approving such shall be severable, and should any provision be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be inconsistent with state or federal law, and therefore unenforceable, the remaining clauses shall remain in full force and effect.

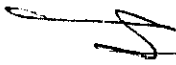
WHEREFORE, Complainant and Respondent request that the Board adopt and accept the foregoing Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement as written.

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,

LISA MADIGAN
Attorney General
State of Illinois

MATTHEW J. DUNN, Chief
Environmental Enforcement/
Asbestos Litigation Division

BY:

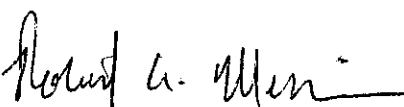

THOMAS DAVIS, Chief
Environmental Bureau
Assistant Attorney General

DATE:

9/28/07

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

BY:



ROBERT A. MESSINA
Chief Legal Counsel

DATE:

9/24/07

FIRST CHOICE CONSTRUCTION, INC.

BY:


Name: Michael Brenner

DATE:

8/31/07

Title: PREZ
FIRST CHOICE, INC