

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
Complainant,)
)
v.) PCB 08-17
)
FELKER PHARMACY, INC., an Illinois) (Enforcement-Water)
corporation, and ROD BENNETT)
CONSTRUCTION, INC., an Illinois)
corporation,)
)
Respondents,)
)
v.)
)
MCCLELLAN BLAKEMORE)
ARCHITECTS, INC., an Illinois)
corporation, and WENDLER)
ENGINEERING SERVICES,)
INC., an Illinois corporation)
)
Third Party Respondents.)

THIRD PARTY COMPLAINT

Rod Bennett Construction, Inc. (Respondent), by and through its attorney, James E. Meason, files this Third Party Complaint pursuant to the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure (Code), specifically 735 ILCS 5/2-406(b), stating as follows:

1. The Code permits a defendant to, through the filing of a third-party complaint, “bring in as a defendant a person not a party to the action who is or may be liable to him or her for all or part of the plaintiff’s claim against him or her.” 735 ILCS 5/2-406(b).
2. The Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5/1 et seq.) prohibits causing, threatening, or allowing the discharge of any contaminant into the environment so as to cause or tend to cause water pollution. 415 ILCS 5/12(a).
3. The Act prohibits the deposit of any contaminant as to create a water pollution hazard. 415 ILCS 5/12(d).
4. The Act prohibits the causing, threatening, or allowing of the discharge of any contaminant into the waters of the State without a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. 415 ILCS 5/12(f).

5. Respondent incorporates the Complaint in this case by reference and attaches a copy of the Complaint to this Third Party Complaint. In addition to the allegations contained in the Complaint, Respondent maintains:
6. Respondent Felker Pharmacy, Inc. hired Respondent to build a store known as Snyder Pharmacy Dixon in Dixon, Illinois (project).
7. Respondent hired McClellan Blakemore Architects, Inc. (Third Party Respondent MBA) to design the project.
8. Respondent MBA hired Wendler Engineering Services, Inc. (Third Party Respondent Wendler) to provide engineering services on the project. It was within Third Party Respondent Wendler's scope of services to submit the Notice of Intent for General Permit to Discharge Wastewater from a Construction Site (NOI) application to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). Third Party Respondent Wendler failed to do so.
9. Further, because Third Party Respondent failed to apply for the NOI, IEPA did not issue a NPDES permit for the project.
10. On or about August 26, 2005, an IEPA inspector visited the site and noted the lack of an NOI or NPDES permit. As a result of that inspection, IEPA referred a regulatory enforcement case for prosecution.
11. On or about August 20, 2007, Petitioner filed this case against Respondents, alleging violations of the Environmental Protection Act and its implementing regulations for water pollution, creating a water pollution hazard, and failing to obtain an NPDES Permit (i.e., 415 ILCS 5/12(a), (d), (f) and 35 Ill. Admin. Code 309.102(a).
12. Since Third Party Respondent Wendler did not obtain the NPDES permit, any storm water runoff from the project also was unpermitted, constituting and causing, threatening, or allowing water pollution and a water pollution hazard. Such a failure constitutes negligent conduct. Third Party Respondent Wendler had a duty to perform its services in a competent fashion, and it failed, thereby breaching its duty. Consequently, because of that breach of duty, Respondent is a named party in the Complaint and may incur liability.
13. Third Party Respondent MBA had a duty to properly supervise Third Party Respondent Wendler. Third Party Respondent MBA failed to properly supervise Third Party Respondent Wendler, and therefore breached its duty to Respondent to perform its services in a competent fashion, thereby breaching its duty to Respondent. Consequently, because of that breach of duty, Respondent is a named party in the Complaint and may incur liability.
14. The Joint Tortfeasor Contribution Act (Contribution Act) (410 ILCS 100/1 et seq.) provides "where 2 or more persons are subject to liability in tort arising out of the same injury to person or property . . . there is a right of contribution among them, even though judgment has not been entered against them . . ." 740 ILCS 100/2(a). Liability under the Act creates the requisite "liability in tort" for purposes of the Contribution Act. People v. Brockman, 143 Ill.2d 351, 373

(1991) (recognizing third party Contribution Act claim where original defendant sued under Act); Illinois State Toll Highway Authority v. Amoco Oil Company and Mobil Oil Corp., 336 Ill.App.3d 300, 313 (2 Dist. 2003) (applying Contribution Act claim to underlying liability under Act). Illinois State Toll Highway Authority v. Amoco Oil Company and Mobil Oil Corp., 336 Ill.App.3d at 315-16 (allegation that Act's joint liability provisions subjected parties to liability is sufficient to maintain contribution action).

15. Therefore, Respondent requests the Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB) to find Third Party Respondent Wendler and Third Party Respondent MBA liable under the Contribution Act or under an indemnification theory, impose an appropriate sanction against them, and impose any other relief IPCB deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod Bennett Construction, Inc., Respondent

By: _____
James E. Meason

James E. Meason
Attorney at Law
113 W. Main Street
Rockton, IL 61072-2416
(815) 624-6517

VERIFICATION

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section 1-109 of the Code of Civil Procedure, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct, except as to matters therein stated to be on information and belief and as to such matters the undersigned certifies as aforesaid that he verily believes the same to be true.

Rod Bennett Construction, Inc., Respondent

By: _____
Rod Bennett

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 12, I certify that on December 7, 2007, I sent via regular mail from Rockton, Illinois, at 3:00 p.m. the enclosed documents to the following persons:

Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 W. Randolph
Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Stephen J. Sylvester, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Bureau
69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1800
Chicago, IL 60602

Eric D. Morrow, Esq.
Smith Hahn Morrow & Floski, P.C.
129 S. Fourth Street
P.O. Box 10
Oregon, IL 61061-0010

Rod Bennett Construction, Inc.

By: _____
James E. Meason
Respondent's Attorney