

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

August 6, 2009

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)
PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
Complainant,)
)
v.) AC 09-40
) (IEPA No. 51-09-AC)
THOMAS AND VALERIE HILL,) (Administrative Citation)
)
Respondents.)

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

On April 16, 2009, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) timely filed an administrative citation against Thomas and Valerie Hill (respondents). *See* 415 ILCS 5/31.1(c) (2008); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(b), 108.202(c). The administrative citation concerns the respondents' facility located at Lot 18 Agnus Ussery Addition, in Anna, Union County. The property is commonly known to the Agency as the "Anna/Hill (Ussery St.)" site and is designated with Site Code No. 1819955092. For the reasons below, the Board accepts the respondents' amended petition to contest the administrative citation.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5 (2008)), an administrative citation is an expedited enforcement action brought before the Board seeking civil penalties that are fixed by statute. Administrative citations may be filed only by the Agency or, if the Agency has delegated the authority, by a unit of local government, and only for limited types of alleged violations at sanitary landfills or unpermitted open dumps. *See* 415 ILCS 5/3.305, 3.445, 21(o), (p), 31.1(c), 42(b)(4), (4-5) (2008); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.

In this case, the Agency alleges that on April 16, 2009, the respondents violated Sections 21(p)(1) and (7) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/21(p)(1) and (7)] (2008)) by causing or allowing the open dumping of waste in a manner resulting in little and deposition of demolition debris at the respondents' Union County site. The Agency asks the Board to impose the statutory \$3,000 civil penalty on the respondents.

As required, the Agency served the administrative citation on the respondents within "60 days after the date of the observed violation." 415 ILCS 5/31.1(b) (2008); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(c), 108.202(b). Any petition to contest the administrative citation was due by June 8, 2009. On May 22, 2009, Thomas Hill filed a petition with the Board to contest the administrative citation. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(b)(2), 108.204(b). Mr. Hill denies the allegations, stating that the vehicles on his site are not waste (Pet. 2-3), and that a road closure has prevented him from accessing the bottom of his property to remove the items that are waste. Pet. at 1-2. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.206. The Board accepted the petition as timely, but directed the respondents to cure certain deficiencies in the petition. IEPA v. Hill, AC 09-40

(June 4, 2009). On June 8, 2009, Valerie Hill filed an amended petition contesting the administrative citation on the same grounds. Am. Pet. at 1. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.206. The Board accepted the amended petition, but directed the respondents to cure the remaining deficiencies. *IEPA v. Hill*, AC 09-40 (June 18, 2009). Thomas and Valarie Hill filed a third amended petition on May 22, 2009.

The Board accepts the petition and directs the hearing officer to proceed expeditiously to hearing. The hearing officer will give the parties at least 21 days written notice of the hearing. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.300; 415 ILCS 5/31.1(d)(2) (2008). By contesting the administrative citation, the respondents may have to pay the hearing costs of the Board and the Agency. *See* 415 ILCS 5/42(b) (4-5) (2008); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.500. A schedule of the Board's hearing costs is available from the Clerk of the Board and on the Board's Web site at www.ipcb.state.il.us. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.504.

The respondents may withdraw their petition to contest the administrative citation at any time before the Board enters its final decision. If the respondents choose to withdraw their petition, they must do so in writing, unless they do so orally at hearing. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.208. If the respondents withdraw their petition after the hearing starts, the Board will require the respondents to pay the hearing costs of the Board and Agency. *See id.* at 108.500(c).

The Agency has the burden of proof at hearing. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31.1(d)(2) (2008); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.400. If the Board finds that the respondents violated Sections 21(p)(1) and (7) of the Act, the Board will impose civil penalties on the respondents. The civil penalty for violating any provision of subsection (p) of Section 21 is \$1,500 for each violation, except that the penalty amount is \$3,000 for each violation that is the person's second or subsequent adjudicated violation of that provision. *See* 415 ILCS 5/42(b)(4) (2008); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.500(a). However, if the Board finds that the respondents have "shown that the violation resulted from uncontrollable circumstances, the Board shall adopt a final order which makes no finding of violation and which imposes no penalty." 415 ILCS 5/31.1(d)(2) (2008); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.500(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 August 6, 2009, by a vote of 5-0.



John Therriault, Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board