

April 22, 2010

Carol Webb  
Hearing Officer  
Illinois Pollution Control Board  
1021 North Grand Avenue East  
P. O. Box 19274  
Springfield, Il 62794-9274

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

APR 29 2010

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

PCB 10-72

PC# 1

ORIGINAL

Dear Mrs. Webb,

I am the daughter of Byrom Ward of Ward Electric of Crossville, Il. He has been fined regarding transformers that were spilled at the residents of Timothy James. There is to be a teleconference on April 26<sup>th</sup>. I am writing to plead with your department to impose only the minimum fine.


I acknowledge my Dad was in the wrong by having the transformers in the first place but he did not cause the transformers to spill. Mr. James, a convicted felon, came to my Dad asking him if he had anything he could take to scrap in order to buy his kid's Christmas presents. My Dad felt sorry for his children and allowed him to take the transformers. He did not assist Mr. James in loading the items in the truck and he certainly had nothing to do with them spilling out into the soil. Maybe if Mr. James worked for a living instead of going door to door looking for junk to sell this would not have happened.

My Dad is 80 years old and has worked since he was eight. I know that is hard to believe but even at eight years old he was working in the fields on his Father's farm. My Dad has spent his entire life working to provide for his family, first as a farmer, then a soldier in the Korean War, back to farming, and then as an electrician. He has taken very few vacations or even sick days until he had to have a triple by-pass thirteen years ago and then this past year when he developed other health problems. He had severe Carpal Tunnel in both hands and went through surgery last spring. Unfortunately he has not had the outcome he desired and continues to have difficulty with his hands. This has caused my Dad to greatly decrease his workload. It seems that my Dad has unfairly taken the brunt of this punishment for something he didn't even cause to happen. Is it because he works for a living and has an income? It looks as though Mr. James is being rewarded for not working and my Dad is being punished for a lifetime of hard work. He paid the entire clean-up fee and local fine with absolutely no help from Mr. James.

It was my understanding that Mr. James was to attend the meeting with you and your department in Marion, Il recently. According to my parents he did not bother to show up. It is also my understanding that the fine is to be split between my Dad and Mr. James. I am more than curious as to what will happen when Mr. James does not pay his half. Will my Dad also have to pay that like he paid all the clean-up costs? It seems to me my Dad has already paid more than his share. Perhaps the right thing to do is make Mr. James work to pay his part of all this. I'm sure IDOT is short-staffed like everyone else right now, maybe Mr. James should be put on a road crew to work off his fine.

According to my parents you told them my Dad will not be fined more than what he can reasonably pay. I can tell you there is no way they can afford a \$50,000 fine. There are weeks that are good and my Dad can work fairly consistently and then there are weeks that his hands hurt so bad he can't hardly pick up wires and tools that are essential to the work of an electrician. I know the stress of not being able to work like he used to and worrying over this particular outcome has taken it's toll on his health. My Dad made a stupid mistake, one in which he has already paid greatly for. I know if he had it to do over again he would do things differently. Please take this into consideration when handing down his fine. I thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

  
Robin Finch