

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
July 21, 2011

WRB REFINING, LLC (Property	)	
Identification Number 19-1-08-35-00-000-	)	
001),	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	PCB 12-11
	)	(Tax Certification – Air)
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL	)	
PROTECTION AGENCY,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

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

On July 6, 2011, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) filed a recommendation that the Board certify certain facilities of WRB Refining, LLC (petitioner) as “pollution control facilities” for preferential tax treatment under the Property Tax Code. *See* 35 ILCS 200/11-5 *et seq.* (2010); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125. Petitioner’s petroleum refinery is located at 900 South Central Avenue, Roxana, Madison County. In this order, the Board describes the legal framework for tax certifications, discusses the Agency’s recommendation, and certifies that petitioner’s North Property Flare Expansion project (project) is considered pollution control facilities.

**LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

Under the Property Tax Code, “[i]t is the policy of this State that pollution control facilities should be valued, at 33 1/3% of the fair cash value of their economic productivity to their owners.” 35 ILCS 200/11-5 (2010); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.200(a)(2). “For tax purposes, pollution control facilities shall be certified as such by the Pollution Control Board and shall be assessed by the Department [of Revenue].” 35 ILCS 200/11-20 (2010); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.200(a).

Under Section 125.202 of the Board’s procedural rules, a person may submit an application for tax certification to the Agency. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.202. If the Agency receives a tax certification application, the Agency must file with the Board a recommendation on the application, unless the applicant withdraws the application. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.204(a). Among other things, the Agency’s filing must recommend that the Board issue or deny tax certification. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.204(a)(4). If the Board finds “that the claimed facility or relevant portion thereof is a pollution control facility . . . , the Pollution Control Board . . . shall enter a finding and issue a certificate to that effect.” 35 ILCS 200/11-25 (2010); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.216(a).

### **AGENCY RECOMMENDATION**

The Agency states that it received a tax certification application from petitioner on October 14, 2010.<sup>1</sup> Rec. at 1. On July 6, 2011, the Agency filed a recommendation on the application with the Board, attaching the application. The Agency's recommendation identifies the facilities at issue:

As part of the expansion project, a high efficiency flare and a higher stack were installed to replace an older ground flare. The piping associated with the same flare system was upgraded with higher-rated capacity, thereby allowing the refinery to reroute existing pressure relief valves that might normally vent to the atmosphere to the flare system. As described in the application, these changes will reduce the amount of contaminants, such as volatile organic materials, hydrogen sulfide, ammonia and certain hazardous air pollutants, released from the refinery. In addition, the new flare included pilots that will more effectively reduce the amounts of natural gas consumed by the flare system, thereby reducing carbon dioxide emissions. *Id.* at 2.

The Agency's recommendation further describes the facilities: the project "was undertaken by the refinery to improve the operation of the flare system for the various equipment/operations located on the northern portion of the refinery." Rec. at 2.

The Agency recommends that the Board certify that the identified facilities are pollution control facilities as defined in Section 11-10 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/11-10 (2010)) with the primary purpose to "prevent, eliminate or reduce air pollution." Rec. at 2.

### **TAX CERTIFICATE**

Based on the Agency's recommendation petitioner's application, the Board finds and certifies that petitioner's facilities identified in this order are pollution control facilities under the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/11-10 (2010)). Under Section 11-25 of the Property Tax Code, the effective date of this certificate is "the date of application for the certificate or the date of the construction of the facility, which ever is later." 35 ILCS 200/11-25 (2010); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.216(a). Section 125.216(d) of the Board's procedural rules states that the Clerk "will provide the applicant and the Agency with a copy of the Board's order setting forth *the Board's findings and certificate, if any.*" 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.216(d) (quoting in italics 35 ILCS 200/11-30 (2010)). The Clerk therefore will provide petitioner and the Agency with a copy of this order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Section 41(a) of the Environmental Protection Act provides that final Board orders may be appealed directly to the Illinois Appellate Court within 35 days after the Board serves the order. 415 ILCS 5/41(a) (2010); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(d)(2), 101.906, 102.706.

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<sup>1</sup> The Agency's recommendation is cited as "Rec. at \_."

Illinois Supreme Court Rule 335 establishes filing requirements that apply when the Illinois Appellate Court, by statute, directly reviews administrative orders. 172 Ill. 2d R. 335. The Board's procedural rules provide that motions for the Board to reconsider or modify its final orders may be filed with the Board within 35 days after the order is received. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.520; *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.902, 102.700, 102.702.

I, John Therriault, Assistant Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on July 21, 2011, by a vote of 5-0.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John T. Therriault". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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John Therriault, Assistant Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board