

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
December 20, 2012

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
)
Complainant,)
)
v.) PCB 13-25
) (Enforcement - Air)
DIVERSIFIED LABELING SOLUTIONS,)
INC.,)
)
Respondent.)

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by T.A. Hollbrook):

On December 6, 2012, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People), filed a six-count complaint against Diversified Labeling Solution, Inc. (Diversified). The complaint concerns Diversified's printing facility located at 1285 Hamilton Parkway, Itasca, DuPage County. For the reasons below, the Board accepts the complaint for hearing.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5 (2010)), the Attorney General and the State's Attorneys may bring actions before the Board to enforce Illinois' environmental requirements on behalf of the People. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31 (2010); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103. In this case, the People allege that Diversified violated Sections 9(a), 9(b), 9.12(j), 39.5(5)(x), and 39.5(6)(b) of the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5/9(a), 9(b), 9.12(j), 39.5(5)(x), 39.5(6)(b) (2010)); Sections 201.142, 201.143, 201.302(a), and 218.404(d)(1) of the Board's air pollution regulations (35 Ill. Adm. Code 201.142, 201.143, 201.302(a), 218.404(d)(1)); and Section 254.137(a) of the Agency's air pollution regulations (35 Ill. Adm. Code 254.137(a)).

The People allege that Diversified committed these violations by constructing 13 flexographic printing presses and six die-cutting machines at its facility without obtaining a construction permit issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency); operating eight flexographic printing presses at its facility without first obtaining an operating permit from the Agency; operating its facility without timely submitting an application before commencing operation as a major source; failing to timely submit to the Agency a certification of compliance with or exemption from the Board's printing regulations; failing to timely submit an Annual Emissions Report for each of the calendar years from 1992 through and including 2011; and failing to pay the applicable construction permit fees for the two flexographic printing presses and one die cutter constructed in the calendar year 2004.

The People ask the Board to order Diversified to cease and desist from any further violations of the Act and regulations, undertake corrective action necessary to result in abatement of the alleged violations of the Act, and pay civil penalties of \$50,000 for each violation and

\$10,000 for each day during which violations continued. The People also request that the Board tax all costs in this action, including, but not limited to, attorney, expert witness, and consultant fees, against Diversified.

The Board finds that the complaint meets the content requirements of the Board's procedural rules and accepts the complaint for hearing. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.204(c), (f), 103.212(c). A respondent's failure to file an answer to a complaint within 60 days after receiving the complaint may have severe consequences. Generally, if Diversified fails by that deadline to file an answer specifically denying, or asserting insufficient knowledge to form a belief of, a material allegation in the complaint, the Board will consider Diversified to have admitted the allegation. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.204(d).

The Board directs the hearing officer to proceed expeditiously to hearing. Among the hearing officer's responsibilities is the "duty . . . to ensure development of a clear, complete, and concise record for timely transmission to the Board." 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.610. A complete record in an enforcement case thoroughly addresses, among other things, the appropriate remedy, if any, for the alleged violations, including any civil penalty.

If a complainant proves an alleged violation, the Board considers the factors set forth in Sections 33(c) and 42(h) of the Act to fashion an appropriate remedy for the violation. *See* 415 ILCS 5/33(c), 42(h) (2010). Specifically, the Board considers the Section 33(c) factors in determining, first, what to order the respondent to do to correct an ongoing violation, if any, and, second, whether to order the respondent to pay a civil penalty. The factors provided in Section 33(c) bear on the reasonableness of the circumstances surrounding the violation, such as the character and degree of any resulting interference with protecting public health, the technical practicability and economic reasonableness of compliance, and whether the respondent has subsequently eliminated the violation.

If, after considering the Section 33(c) factors, the Board decides to impose a civil penalty on the respondent, only then does the Board consider the Act's Section 42(h) factors in determining the appropriate amount of the civil penalty. Section 42(h) sets forth factors that may mitigate or aggravate the civil penalty amount, such as the duration and gravity of the violation, whether the respondent showed due diligence in attempting to comply, any economic benefit that the respondent accrued from delaying compliance, and the need to deter further violations by the respondent and others similarly situated. *See* 415 ILCS 5/42(h) (2010).

With Public Act 93-575, effective January 1, 2004, the General Assembly changed the Act's civil penalty provisions, amending Section 42(h) and adding a new subsection (i) to Section 42. Section 42(h)(3) now states that any economic benefit to respondent from delayed compliance is to be determined by the "lowest cost alternative for achieving compliance." The amended Section 42(h) also requires the Board to ensure that the penalty is "at least as great as the economic benefits, if any, accrued by the respondent as a result of the violation, unless the Board finds that imposition of such penalty would result in an arbitrary or unreasonable financial hardship."

Under these amendments, the Board may also order a penalty lower than a respondent's economic benefit from delayed compliance if the respondent agrees to perform a "supplemental environmental project" (SEP). An SEP is defined in Section 42(h)(7) as an "environmentally beneficial project" that a respondent "agrees to undertake in settlement of an enforcement action . . . but which the respondent is not otherwise legally required to perform." SEPs are also added as a new Section 42(h) factor, as is whether a respondent has "voluntary self-disclosed . . . the non-compliance to the [Illinois Environmental Protection] Agency." 415 ILCS 5/42(h)(6), (h)(7) (2010). A new Section 42(i) lists nine criteria for establishing voluntary self-disclosure of non-compliance. A respondent establishing these criteria is entitled to a "reduction in the portion of the penalty that is not based on the economic benefit of non-compliance." 415 ILCS 5/42(i) (2010).

Accordingly, the Board further directs the hearing officer to advise the parties that in summary judgment motions and responses, at hearing, and in briefs, each party should consider: (1) proposing a remedy for a violation, if any (including whether to impose a civil penalty), and supporting its position with facts and arguments that address any or all of the Section 33(c) factors; and (2) proposing a civil penalty, if any (including a specific total dollar amount and the portion of that amount attributable to the respondent's economic benefit, if any, from delayed compliance), and supporting its position with facts and arguments that address any or all of the Section 42(h) factors. The Board also directs the hearing officer to advise the parties to address these issues in any stipulation and proposed settlement that may be filed with the Board.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, John T. Therriault, Assistant Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on December 20, 2012 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 at the end.

John T. Therriault, Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board