ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD July 24, 2014

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)
PROTECTION AGENCY,)
Complainant,)
v.)) AC 14-54
BRIAN AND TINA PAGE,) (IEPA No. 159-14-AC)) (Administrative Citation)
Respondents.))

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by D. Glosser):

On June 25, 2014, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) timely filed an administrative citation against Brian Page and Tina Page (respondents). *See* 415 ILCS 5/31.1(c) (2014); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(b), 108.202(c). The administrative citation concerns respondents' property located west of the intersection of Fantasy Lane and Hampton Road near Chillicothe, Marshall County. The property is commonly known to the Agency as the "Page, Brian & Tina" site and is designated with Site Code No. 1238065002. For the reasons below, the Board accepts respondents' petition to contest the administrative citation.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5 (2014)), 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. *See* 415 ILCS 5/21(o), 21(p), 22.51, 22.51a, 31.1(c), 42(b)(4), 42(b)(4-5), 55(k) (2014); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.

In this case, the Agency alleges that on May 19, 2014, respondents violated Sections 21(p)(1) and 21(p)(7) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/21(p)(1), 21(p)(7) (2014)) by causing or allowing the open dumping of waste in a manner resulting in litter and in deposition of general construction or demolition debris at the Marshall County site. The Agency asks the Board to impose on respondents the statutory \$1,500 civil penalty for each alleged violation, for a total civil penalty of \$3,000.

As required, the Agency served the administrative citation on respondents within "60 days after the date of the observed violation." 415 ILCS 5/31.1(b) (2014); see also 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(c), 108.202(b). Any petition to contest the administrative citation was due by July 31, 2014. On July 21, 2014, respondents timely filed a petition. See 415 ILCS 5/31.1(d) (2014); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(b), 108.204(b). Respondents allege that the above-referenced alleged violations resulted from uncontrollable circumstances; and, consequently, that the Board should adopt a final order that makes no finding of violation and that imposes no penalty. See 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.206.

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) (2014). By contesting the administrative citation, respondents may have to pay the hearing costs of the Board and the Agency. *See* 415 ILCS 5/42(b)(4-5) (2014); 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.

Respondents may withdraw their petition to contest the administrative citation at any time before the Board enters its final decision. If 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 respondents withdraw their petition after the hearing starts, the Board will require respondents to pay the hearing costs of the Board and the Agency. See id. at 108.500(c).

The Agency has the burden of proof at hearing. See 415 ILCS 5/31.1(d)(2) (2014); 35 III. Adm. Code 108.400. If the Board finds that Brian and Tina Page violated Sections 21(p)(1) and 21(p)(7) of the Act, the Board will impose civil penalties on respondents. The civil penalty for violating any provision of Section 21(p) 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)(4-5) (2014); 35 III. Adm. Code 108.500(a). However, if the Board finds that Brian and Tina Page "ha[ve] shown that the violation resulted from uncontrollable circumstances, the Board shall adopt a final order that makes no finding of violation and which imposes no penalty." 415 ILCS 5/31.1(d)(2) (2014); see also 35 III. Adm. Code 108.500(b).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, John T. Therriault, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on July 24, 2014, by a vote of 4-0.

John T. Therriault, Clerk

Illinois Pollution Control Board

John T. Therrian