

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
December 17, 2020

WELCH AG SERVICES, INC. – MACOMB)
(Property Identification Number 17-000-301-)
00),)
)
Petitioner,)
)
v.) PCB 21-41
) (Tax Certification - Water)
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)
PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
Respondent.)

ORDER OF THE BOARD (A. Palivos):

On December 4, 2020, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) filed a recommendation that the Board certify specified facilities of Welch Ag Services, Inc (Welch) as “pollution control facilities” for preferential tax treatment under the Property Tax Code. *See* 35 ILCS 200/11-5 *et seq.* (2018); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125. Welch’s livestock waste management facility is located at 14985 W. 700th Road in Macomb, McDonough County. In this order, the Board describes the legal framework for tax certifications, discusses the Agency’s recommendation, and certifies that Welch’s identified livestock waste management facilities are 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 (2018); *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 (2018); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.200(a). Under the statute, the Board determines if the facilities are pollution control facilities; however, the Board is not authorized to assess a value of those facilities.

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 (2018); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 125.216(a).

AGENCY RECOMMENDATION

The Agency states that it received a tax certification application from Welch on September 25, 2018.¹ Rec. at 1. On December 4, 2020, the Agency filed a recommendation with the Board, attaching Welch’s application. The Agency’s recommendation identifies the facilities at issue:

Agrichemical containment structures consisting of two (2) concrete liquid agrichemical operational containment dikes (approximately 20.5 ft. x 37.33 ft. x 1 ft. as OC-1; 20.5 ft. x 38.67 ft. x 0.33 ft. as OC-2), two (2) concrete bulk liquid agrichemical secondary containment dikes (approximately 38.67 ft. x 16.67 ft. x 1.67 ft. as SC-I; 38.67 ft. x 24.33 ft. x 3.83 ft. as SC-2), associated collection and recovery system to the dikes, and the portion of the building over the operational containment dikes and secondary containment dikes as approved under the Agency endorsed Agrichemical Facility Permit No. AC17082411 (Log No. 17122542 issued on February 26, 2018). *Id.* at 1-2.

The Agency further describes the facilities as used to “collect, transport, and/or store agrichemical rinsates, residues, or wash waters prior to reuse or disposal...” *Id.* at 2.

The Agency recommends that the Board certify that the livestock waste management facilities are pollution control facilities as defined in Section 11-10 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/11-10 (2018)) with the “primary purpose of eliminating, preventing, or reducing water pollution.” Rec. at 2.

TAX CERTIFICATE

Based upon the Agency’s recommendation, Welch’s application, and the Board’s technical review, the Board finds and certifies that Welch’s livestock waste management facilities identified in this order are pollution control facilities under the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/11-10 (2018)). The Board makes no finding regarding the assessed value of those facilities. 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 (2018); *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 (2018)). The Clerk therefore will provide Welch and the Agency with a copy of this order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

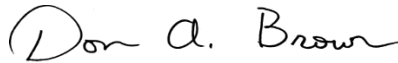
Section 11-60 of the Property Tax Code provides that any applicant or holder aggrieved by the issuance, refusal to issue, denial, revocation, modification or restriction of a pollution control certificate or a low sulfur dioxide emission coal fueled device certificate may appeal the Board’s finding and order to the Circuit Court under the Administrative Review Law (735 ILCS 5/3-101 *et seq.* (2018)). *See* 35 ILCS 200/11-60 (2018). Filing a motion asking that the Board

¹ The Agency’s recommendation is cited as “Rec. at _.”

reconsider this final order is not a prerequisite to appealing the order. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.902.

| Names and Addresses for Receiving Service of Any Appeal Filed with the Circuit Court | |
|---|--|
| Parties | Board |
| Welch Ag Service, Inc. P.O. Box 487 Macomb, IL 61455 | Illinois Pollution Control Board Attn: Don A. Brown, Clerk James R. Thompson Center 100 West Randolph Street, Suite 11-500 Chicago, Illinois 60601 |
| Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Attn: Amanda S. Kimmel 1021 North Grand Ave. E. Springfield, IL 62794 | |

I, Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on December 17, 2020, by a vote of 4-0.



Don A. Brown, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board