

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

November 6, 2014

BRANDON BLASA)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	PCB 15-79
)	(UST Appeal)
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)	
PROTECTION AGENCY,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by D. Glosser):

On October 23, 2014, Brandon Blasa timely filed a petition asking the Board to review an October 1, 2014 determination of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency). *See* 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(1) (2012); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(b), 105.402, 105.404, 105.406. The Agency's determination concerns Brandon Blasa's leaking underground storage tank (UST) site located in Jerseyville, Jersey County. For the reasons below, the Board accepts Brandon Blasa's petition for hearing.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5 (2012)), the Agency decides whether to approve proposed cleanup plans and budgets for leaking UST sites, as well as requests for cleanup cost reimbursement from the State's UST Fund, which consists of UST fees and motor fuel taxes. If the Agency disapproves or modifies a submittal, the UST owner or operator may appeal the decision to the Board. *See* 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(1), 57-57.17 (2012); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.Subpart D. In this case, the Agency rejected the application for payment on the grounds that the application was incomplete. Brandon Blasa appeals on the grounds that the application was complete, containing all of the information required of a complete application pursuant to Section 57.8 of the Act (415 ILCS 5/57.8(a)(6) (2012)). Brandon Blasa's petition meets the content requirements of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.408.

The Board accepts the petition for hearing. Brandon Blasa has the burden of proof. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.112(a). Hearings will be based exclusively on the record before the Agency at the time the Agency issued its determination. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.412. Accordingly, though the Board hearing affords petitioner the opportunity to challenge the Agency's reasons for its decision, information developed after the Agency's decision typically is not admitted at hearing or considered by the Board. *See* Alton Packaging Corp. v. PCB, 162 Ill. App. 3d 731, 738, 516 N.E.2d 275, 280 (5th Dist. 1987); Community Landfill Co. & City of Morris v. IEPA, PCB 01-170 (Dec. 6, 2001), *aff'd sub nom.* Community Landfill Co. & City of Morris v. PCB & IEPA, 331 Ill. App. 3d 1056, 772 N.E.2d 231 (3rd Dist. 2002).

Hearings will be scheduled and completed in a timely manner, consistent with the decision deadline (*see* 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(2) (2012)), which only Brandon Blasa may extend by

waiver (*see* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.308). If the Board fails to take final action by the decision deadline, Brandon Blasa may deem its request granted. *See* 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(2) (2012). Currently, the decision deadline is February 20, 2015, which is the 120th day after the date on which the Board received the petition, October 23, 2014. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.114. The Board meeting immediately before the decision deadline is scheduled for February 19, 2015.

Unless the Board or the hearing officer orders otherwise, the Agency must file the entire record of its determination by November 21, 2014, which is 30 days after the Board received Brandon Blasa's petition. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.410(a). If the Agency wishes to seek additional time to file the record, it must file a request for extension before the date on which the record is due to be filed. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.116. The record must comply with the content requirements of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.410(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 November 6, 2014, by a vote of 4-0.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John T. Therriault". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John T. Therriault, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board