## ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD October 16, 2014

| PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,  | ) |                       |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
|                                   | ) |                       |
| Complainant,                      | ) |                       |
|                                   | ) |                       |
| V.                                | ) | PCB 14-133            |
|                                   | ) | (Enforcement - Water) |
| MUHAMMAD S. ANSARI, individually, | ) | ,                     |
| and LAKE BLUFF PETROLEUM, INC.,   | ) |                       |
| an Illinois corporation,          | ) |                       |
|                                   | ) |                       |
| Respondents.                      | ) |                       |

## OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by J.A. Burke):

On May 29, 2014, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People), filed a three-count complaint against Muhammad S. Ansari and Lake Bluff Petroleum, Inc. (respondents). The complaint concerns respondents' gasoline service station at 218 North Waukegan Road in Lake Bluff, Lake County. The parties now seek to settle without a hearing. For the reasons below, the Board accepts the parties' stipulation and proposed settlement.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5 (2012)), the Attorney General may bring actions before the Board to enforce Illinois' environmental requirements on behalf of the People. See 415 ILCS 5/31 (2012); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103. In this case, the People allege that respondents violated Section 12(a), 12(d), and 12(f) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/12(a), 12(d), 12(f) (2012)) and Section 309.102(a) of the Board's Water Pollution Regulations (35 Ill. Adm. Code 309.102(a)). The People allege that respondents violated these provisions by pumping water contaminated with gasoline from a fuel tank to a drainage ditch so as to: cause or allow water pollution (Count I); create a water pollution hazard (Count II); and discharge contaminants without a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit (Count III).

On August 15, 2014, the parties filed a stipulation and proposed settlement, accompanied by a request for relief from the hearing requirement of Section 31(c)(1) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/31(c)(1) (2012)). This filing is authorized by Section 31(c)(2) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2012)), which requires that the public have an opportunity to request a hearing whenever the State and a respondent propose settling an enforcement action without a public hearing. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.300(a). The Board provided notice of the stipulation, proposed settlement, and request for relief. The newspaper notice was published in the *Lake County News Sun* on September 9, 2014. The Board did not receive any requests for hearing. The Board grants the parties' request for relief from the hearing requirement. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2012); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.300(b).

Section 103.302 of the Board's procedural rules sets forth the required contents of stipulations and proposed settlements. *See* 35 III. Adm. Code 103.302. These requirements include stipulating to facts on the nature, extent, and causes of the alleged violations and the nature of respondents' operations. Section 103.302 also requires that the parties stipulate to facts called for by Section 33(c) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/33(c) (2012)), which bears on the reasonableness of the circumstances surrounding the alleged violations. The respondents admit the alleged violations. The stipulation also addresses the factors of Section 42(h) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/42(h) (2012)), which may mitigate or aggravate the civil penalty amount. The respondents agree to pay a civil penalty of \$5,000. The People and the respondents have satisfied Section 103.302. The Board accepts the stipulation and proposed settlement.

This opinion constitutes the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law.

## **ORDER**

- 1. The Board accepts and incorporates by reference the stipulation and proposed settlement.
- 2. Muhammad S. Ansari and Lake Bluff Petroleum, Inc. (respondents), must pay a civil penalty of \$5,000 no later than November 17, 2014, which is the first business day following the 30th day after the date of this order. Respondents must pay the civil penalty by certified check or money order payable to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for deposit into the Environmental Protection Trust Fund. The case name and case number must appear on the face of the certified check or money order.
- 3. Respondents must submit payment of the civil penalty to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Fiscal Services Division 1021 North Grand Avenue East P.O. Box 19276 Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Respondents must send a copy of the certified check or money order and any transmittal letter to:

Jennifer A. Van Wie Assistant Attorney General Environmental Bureau Illinois Attorney General's Office 69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1800 Chicago, Illinois 60602

4. Penalties unpaid within the time prescribed will accrue interest under Section 42(g) of the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/42(g)

- (2012)) at the rate set forth in Section 1003(a) of the Illinois Income Tax Act (35 ILCS 5/1003(a) (2010)).
- 5. Respondents shall cease and desist from future violations of the Act and Board regulations that were the subject matter of the complaint.

## 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) (2012); see also 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(d)(2), 101.906, 102.706. 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 T. Therriault, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on October 16, 2014 by a vote of 4-0.

John T. Therriault, Clerk

Illinois Pollution Control Board