

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
November 19, 2015

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	PCB 11-24
)	(Enforcement – Air)
U.S. CHROME CORPORATION OF)	
ILLINOIS, INC., a Connecticut corporation,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by G.M. Keenan):

On December 1, 2010, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People), filed a six-count complaint against U.S. Chrome Corporation of Illinois, Inc. The complaint concerned U.S. Chrome’s hard chromium electroplating operations at its facility located at 305 Herbert Road in Herbert, Boone 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 (2014)), 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 (2014); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103. In this case, the People allege that U.S. Chrome violated 35 Ill. Adm. Code 201.142 by constructing emission sources without a permit; 35 Ill. Adm. Code 201.143 by operating emission sources without a permit; 40 C.F.R. §§ 63.7 and 63.343 (and thereby Section 9.1(d) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/9.1(d) (2010)) by failing to conduct performance testing measures and implement monitoring, recordkeeping and reporting measures; 40 C.F.R. § 63.346 (and thereby Section 9.1(d) of the Act) by failing to maintain proper records; 40 C.F.R. § 63.347 (and thereby Section 9.1(d) of the Act) by failing to prepare and submit notifications of compliance status; and Section 9.12 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/9.12 (2010), by failing to submit the requisite construction permit fee.

On October 9, 2015, the People and U.S. Chrome 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) (2014). This filing is authorized by Section 31(c)(2) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2014), 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 *Boone County Journal* on October 23, 2015. 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) (2014); 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 Ill. Adm. Code 103.302. These requirements include stipulating to facts on the nature, extent, and causes of the alleged violations and the nature of U.S. Chrome's 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) (2014), which bears on the reasonableness of the circumstances surrounding the alleged violations. U.S. Chrome does not affirmatively admit the alleged violation. The stipulation also addresses the factors of Section 42(h) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/42(h) (2014), which may mitigate or aggravate the civil penalty amount. U.S. Chrome agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$45,000. The People and U.S. Chrome 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. U.S. Chrome must pay a civil penalty of \$45,000 no later than December 17, 2015, which is the 30th day after the date of this order. U.S. Chrome 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. U.S. Chrome must submit payment of the civil penalty to:

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

U.S. Chrome must send a copy of the certified check or money order and any transmittal letter to:

Evan J. McGinley
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Bureau
Illinois Attorney General's Office
69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1800
Chicago, Illinois 60602

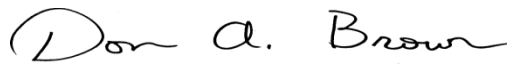
4. Penalties unpaid within the time prescribed will accrue interest under Section 42(g) of the Environmental Protection Act, 415 ILCS 5/42(g) (2014), at the rate set forth in Section 1003(a) of the Illinois Income Tax Act, 35 ILCS 5/1003(a) (2014).

5. U.S. Chrome must cease and desist from future violations of the Act, Board air pollution regulations, and the National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Chromium 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) (2014); *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, Don A. Brown, Assistant Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above opinion and order on November 19, 2015, by a vote of 5 to 0.



Don A. Brown, Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board