

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

February 1, 1996

KEITH F. BOYER,)
)
Complainant,) PCB 96-151
) (Enforcement - Citizens)
v.)
)
FELECIA HARRIS, aka FELECIA)
DAWKINS, and CHICAGOLAND)
MORTGAGE CORPORATION,)

Respondents.

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by M. McFawn):

This matter is before the Board on a complaint filed January 2, 1996 by Keith F. Boyer against Felecia Harris, aka Felecia Dawkins, and Chicagoland Mortgage Corporation, regarding the property located at 9150 S. Avalon, Chicago (the site). The complaint alleges that respondents violated Section 21(a), 21(e), and 21(m) of the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/21(a), (e), and (m)), by abandoning hazardous and non-hazardous waste at the site, and transferring their interest in the property without informing the buyer of these conditions. Specifically, the complaint alleges that the site is contaminated by paint which has caused high concentrations of lead to exist at the site, and that the site is littered with white goods.

Section 103.124(a) of the Board's procedural rules, which implements Section 31(b) of the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/31(b)), provides:

... If a complaint is filed by a person other than the Agency, the Clerk shall also send a copy to the Agency; the Chairman shall place the matter on the Board agenda for Board determination whether the complaint is duplicitous or frivolous. If the Board rules that the complaint is duplicitous or frivolous, it shall enter an order setting forth its reasons for so ruling and shall notify the parties of its decision. If the Board rules that the complaint is not duplicitous or frivolous, this does not preclude the filing of motions regarding the insufficiency of the pleadings. (35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.124.)

An action before the Board is duplicitous if the matter is identical or substantially similar to one brought in another forum (Brandle v. Ropp, PCB 85-68, 64 PCB 263 (1985)). An action before the Board is frivolous if it fails to state a cause of action upon which relief can be granted by the Board (Citizens for a Better Environment v. Reynolds Metals Co., PCB 73-173, 8 PCB 46 (1973)).

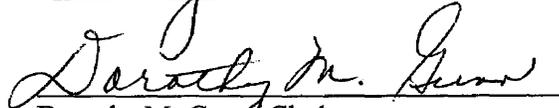
There is no evidence before the Board to indicate this matter is identical or substantially similar to any matter brought in another forum, nor is there any evidence that the Board cannot grant the relief requested. At this time, therefore, the Board finds that, pursuant to Section 103.124(a), the complaint is neither duplicitous nor frivolous. Accordingly, this matter shall proceed to hearing.

The hearing must be scheduled and completed in a timely manner, consistent with Board practices. The Chief Hearing Officer shall assign a hearing officer to conduct hearings. The Clerk of the Board shall promptly issue appropriate directions to the assigned hearing officer consistent with this order.

The assigned hearing officer shall inform the Clerk of the Board of the time and location of the hearing at least 40 days in advance of hearing so that public notice of hearing may be published. After hearing, the hearing officer shall submit an exhibit list, a statement regarding credibility of witnesses and all actual exhibits to the Board within five days of the hearing. The hearing officer and the parties are encouraged to expedite this proceeding as much as possible.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify that the above order was adopted on the 1st day of February, 1996, by a vote of 7-0.


Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board