## ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD February 6, 2025

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,	)
Complainant,	) )
v.	) PCB 24-52
CLEAN CUT LAWN CARE, an Illinois limited liability company,	) (Enforcement - Land) ) )
Respondent.	)

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by M. Gibson):

On January 31, 2024, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People), filed a seven-count complaint against Clean Cut Lawn Care, LLC (Clean Cut). The complaint concerns Clean Cut's lawn care and landscaping business located at 93 North 5000 Road W and its clean construction or demolition debris recycling facility located at 222 South 5000W Road, both in Limestone Township, Kankakee 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 (2022)), 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 (2022); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103. In this case, the People allege that Clean Cut violated Sections 9(c), 21(a), 21(d)(1), 21(e), 21(p)(1), 21(p)(3), and 21(q) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/9(c), 21(a), 21(d)(1), 21(e), 21(p)(1), 21(p)(3), 21(q) (2022)) by allowing the consolidation of waste at its facility not meeting the requirements of a sanitary landfill and therefore causing or allowing the open dumping of waste; causing or allowing the open dumping of waste resulting in litter and open burning of waste; conducting a waste-disposal operation without a permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA); disposing of or abandoning waste at a site not permitted for waste disposal by IEPA; conducting a landscape waste composting operation without having applied for and obtained a permit from IEPA; and causing or allowing the open burning of waste.

On December 17, 2024, the People and Clean Cut 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) (2022)). This filing is authorized by Section 31(c)(2) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2022)), 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 *Daily Journal* on January 11, 2025. 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) (2022); 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 Clean Cut'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) (2022)), which bears on the reasonableness of the circumstances surrounding the alleged violations. Clean Cut does not affirmatively admit the alleged violations. The stipulation also addresses the factors of Section 42(h) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/42(h) (2022)), which may mitigate or aggravate the civil penalty amount. Under the proposed settlement, Clean Cut agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$15,000 within 30 days after the date of this order. The People and Clean Cut 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.

## <u>ORDER</u>

- 1. The Board accepts and incorporates by reference the stipulation and proposed settlement.
- 2. Clean Cut must pay a civil penalty of \$15,000 no later than March 10, 2025, which is the first business day following the 30th day after the date of this order. Clean Cut 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 certified check or money order.
- 3. Clean Cut must submit payment of the civil penalty to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Fiscal Services Division 2520 W Iles Ave P.O. Box 19276 Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

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

Rebecca Kanz Assistant Attorney General Environmental Bureau Illinois Attorney General's Office 69 W. Washington Street, 18th Floor 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) (2022)) at the rate set forth in Section 1003(a) of the Illinois Income Tax Act (35 ILCS 5/1003(a) (2022)).
- 5. Clean Cut must cease and desist from future violations of the Environmental Protection Act and Board regulations that were the subject 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) (2022); *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. Filing a motion asking that the Board 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 Petition for Review Filed with the Appellate Court		
Parties	Board	
Illinois Attorney General's Office Attn.: Rebecca Kanz Assistant Attorney General 69 W. Washington St., 18th Floor Chicago, Illinois 60602 Rebecca.Kanz@ilag.gov	Illinois Pollution Control Board Attn: Don A. Brown, Clerk 60 East Van Buren Street, Suite 630 Chicago, Illinois 60605 don.brown@illinois.gov	
Leech Tishman Fuscaldo Limpl, LLC Attn.: Jennifer J. Sackett Pohlenz 225 W. Washington Street, Suite 1300 Chicago, IL 60606 jpohlenz@leechtishman.com		

I, Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above opinion and order on February 6, 2025, by a vote of 5-0.

)on a. Brown ()

Don A. Brown, Clerk Illinois Pollution Control Board