

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
December 18, 2025

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by M. D. Mankowski):

On December 8, 2025, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People), filed a three-count complaint against City of La Harpe (La Harpe). The complaint concerns the site of La Harpe's former water treatment plant, located in the northeast corner of the city via an access road off East County Road 2700 in La Harpe, Hancock County. Accompanying the complaint was a stipulation, proposal for settlement, and request for relief from the hearing requirement. The parties therefore seek to settle the complaint without a hearing. For the reasons below, the Board accepts the complaint and directs the Clerk to provide public notice of the stipulation, proposed settlement, and request for hearing relief.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5 (2024)), 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 (2024); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103. In this case, the People allege that La Harpe violated Sections 21(a), 21(d)(1), and 21(e) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/21(a), 21(d)(1), 21(e) (2024)) and Section 391.402(l) of the water pollution regulations (35 Ill. Adm. Code 391.402(l)) by causing or allowing open dumping of waste; conducting a waste disposal operation without a permit; and disposing, storing, or abandoning sludge. The Board finds that the complaint meets the applicable content requirements of the Board's procedural rules and accepts the complaint. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.204(c).

On December 8, 2025, simultaneously with the People's complaint, the People and La Harpe 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) (2024)). This filing is authorized by Section 31(c)(2) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2024)), 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). Under the proposed stipulation, La Harpe admits the alleged violations and agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$6,000.

Unless the Board determines that a hearing is needed, the Board must cause notice of the stipulation, proposed settlement, and request for relief from the hearing requirement. Any person may file a written demand for hearing within 21 days after receiving the notice. If anyone timely files a written demand for hearing, the Board will deny the parties' request for relief and hold a hearing. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2024); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.300(b), (c). The Board directs the Clerk to provide the required notice.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on December 18, 2025, by a vote of 5-0.

Don A. Brown

Don A. Brown, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board