

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
December 16, 1993

VILLAGE OF HODGKINS,)	
an Illinois municipal corporation,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	PCB 93-230
)	(UST Fund)
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)	
PROTECTION AGENCY,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by M. Nardulli):

This matter is before the Board on a November 22, 1993 petition for review, filed by petitioner Village of Hodgkins, (Hodgkins). Hodgkins seeks review of an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's (Agency) decision denying petitioner's request for reimbursement of certain costs from the Underground Storage Tank Fund. On December 2, 1993, the Board directed the Village of Hodgkins to file an amended petition providing the Board with any additional correspondence from the Agency, not included in the original petition, which set forth the Agency's challenged decision. If petitioner had already submitted the complete Agency correspondence, petitioner was to so state in the amended petition. On December 13, 1993, Village of Hodgkins filed an amended petition which stated that the original petition included the complete correspondence received from the Agency with regard the Agency's final reimbursement decision.

The Board accepts the amended petition. The filing of the amended petition will restart the Board's 120 day decision timeclock, and the decision due date will be calculated from the date of the filing of the amended petition. This matter is accepted for hearing.

Hearing must be scheduled within 14 days of the date of this order and completed within 60 days of the date of this order. The hearing officer shall inform the Clerk of the Board of the time and location of the hearing at least 40 days in advance of the hearing so that public notice of hearing may be published. After hearing, the hearing officer shall submit an exhibit list and all actual exhibits to the Board within 5 days of hearing. Any briefing schedule shall provide for final filings as expeditiously as possible and in no event later than 70 days from the date of this order.

If after appropriate consultation with the parties, the parties fail to provide an acceptable hearing date or if after an attempt the hearing officer is unable to consult with the parties, the hearing officer shall unilaterally set a hearing

date in conformance with the schedule above. This schedule will provide the Board only a very short time period to deliberate and reach a decision before the due date. The hearing officer and the parties are encouraged to expedite this proceeding as much as possible.

Within 10 days of accepting this case, the hearing officer shall enter a hearing officer scheduling order governing completion of the record. That order shall set a date certain for each aspect of the case including: briefing schedule, hearing date(s), completion of discovery (if necessary), and pre-hearing conference (if necessary). The hearing officer scheduling order may be modified by entry of a complete new scheduling order conforming with the time requirements below.

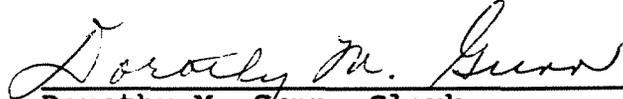
The hearing officer may extend this schedule only on a waiver of the decision deadline by the petitioner and only for the equivalent or fewer number of days that the decision deadline is waived. Such waivers must be provided for in writing to the Clerk of the Board. Any waiver must be an "open waiver" or a waiver of decision until a date certain.

Because of requirements regarding the publication of notice of hearing, no scheduled hearing may be canceled unless the petitioner provides an open waiver or a waiver to a date at least 120 days beyond the date of the motion to cancel hearing. This should allow ample time for the Board to republish notice of hearing and receive transcripts from the hearing before the due date. Any order by the hearing officer granting cancellation of hearing shall include a complete new scheduling order with a new hearing date at least 40 days in the future and at least 30 days prior to the new due date and the Clerk of the Board shall be promptly informed of the new schedule.

Because this proceeding is the type for which the Illinois Environmental Protection Act sets a very short statutory deadline for making a decision, absent a waiver, the Board will grant extensions or modifications only in unusual circumstances. Any such motion must set forth an alternative schedule for notice, hearing, and final submissions, as well as the deadline for decision, including response time to such a motion. However, no such motion shall negate the obligation of the hearing officer to establish a scheduling order pursuant to the requirements of this order, and to adhere to that order until modified.

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 16th day of December, 1993, by a vote of 7-0.



Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board