

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
March 17, 2022

NORTH PARK PUBLIC WATER DISTRICT,)
)
Petitioner,)
)
v.) PCB 22-36
) (Permit Appeal – IL2015500)
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)
PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
Respondent.)

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by B.F. Currie):

On February 17, 2022, at the parties' request, the Board extended until March 10, 2022, the time period for North Park Public Water District (North Park) to appeal a December 14, 2021, determination of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency). The determination concerns North Park's proposed response plan with respect to volatile organic compounds in community water systems. On March 10, 2022, North Park timely filed a petition asking the Board to review the Agency's determination. See 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(1) (2020); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(b), 105.206, 105.208. For the reasons below, the Board accepts the petition for review.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5 (2020)), the Agency is the permitting authority, responsible for administering Illinois' regulatory programs to protect the environment. If the Agency denies a permit or grants one with conditions, the permit applicant may appeal the Agency's decision to the Board. See 415 ILCS 5/4, 5, 40(a)(1) (2020); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.Subpart D. In this case, the Agency modified the proposed response plan regarding North Park's Winnebago County facility. North Park appeals on the grounds that the modifications are not technically or economically reasonable. North Park's petition meets the content requirements of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.210.

The Board accepts the petition for hearing. North Park has the burden of proof. 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(1) (2020); see also 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.112(a). Hearings will be based exclusively on the record before the Agency at the time the Agency issued its permit decision. See 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.214(a). Accordingly, though the Board hearing affords a permit applicant the opportunity to challenge the Agency's reasons for denying or conditionally granting the permit, information developed after the Agency's decision typically is not admitted at hearing or considered by the Board. See Alton Packaging Corp. v. PCB, 162 Ill. App. 3d 731, 738, 516 N.E.2d 275, 280 (5th Dist. 1987); Community Landfill Co. & City of Morris v. IEPA, PCB 01-170 (Dec. 6, 2001), *aff'd sub nom. Community Landfill Co. & City of Morris v. PCB & IEPA*, 331 Ill. App. 3d 1056, 772 N.E.2d 231 (3rd Dist. 2002).

Upon its own motion or the motion of any party, the Board or the hearing officer may order that the hearing be held by videoconference. In deciding whether to hold the hearing by videoconference, factors that the Board or the hearing officer will consider include cost-effectiveness, efficiency, facility accommodations, witness availability, public interest, the parties' preferences, and the proceeding's complexity and contentiousness. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.600(b), 105.110.

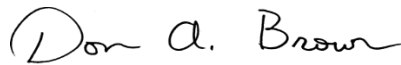
Hearings will be scheduled and completed in a timely manner, consistent with the decision deadline (*see* 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(2) (2020)), which only North Park may extend by waiver (*see* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.308). If the Board fails to take final action by the decision deadline, North Park "may deem the permit issued." 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(2) (2020). Currently, the decision deadline is July 8, 2022, which is the 120th day after the Board received the petition. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.114. The Board meeting immediately before the decision deadline is scheduled for July 7, 2022.

Unless the Board or the hearing officer orders otherwise, the Agency must file the entire record of its determination by Monday, April 10, which is the next business day 30 days after the Board received North Park's petition. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.116(a), 105.212(a). If the Agency wishes to seek additional time to file the record, it must file a request for extension before the date on which the record is due to be filed. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.116(a). The record must comply with the Board's requirements for content, organization, and certification. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.1030(g), 105.116(b), 105.212(b). In addition, the Agency must file the record electronically instead of in paper. Specifically, the record must be filed through the Clerk's Office On-Line (COOL) or on compact disk or other portable electronic data storage device and, to the extent technically feasible, in text-searchable Adobe PDF. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.302(h)(2)(A), 105.116(a).¹

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Board Member M. Gibson abstained.

I, Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on March 17, 2022, by a vote of 4-0.



Don A. Brown, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board

¹ Any questions about filing the record in an electronic format should be directed to the Clerk's Office at (312) 814-3620 or (312) 814-3461.