

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
August 11, 2022

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
)
Complainant,)
)
v.) PCB 22-31
) (Enforcement - Water)
BEL-ROCK ASPHALT PAVING, INC., an)
Illinois corporation,)
)
Respondent.)

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by A. Palivos):

On January 7, 2022, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People), filed a two-count complaint against Bel-Rock Asphalt Paving, Inc. (Bel-Rock). The complaint concerns Bel-Rock’s asphalt paving, sealcoating, pavement stripping and pothole repair facility located at 5095 Irene Road in Belvidere, Boone 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 (2020)), 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 (2020); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103. In this case, the People allege that Bel-Rock violated Sections 12(a) and 12(f) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/12(a), 12(f) (2020)) and Section 309.102(a) of the Board’s Water Pollution Regulations (35 Ill. Adm. Code 309.102(a)) by engaging in industrial activities without first obtaining a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and threatening to discharge contaminants into the environment so as to cause or tend to cause water pollution.

On May 23, 2022, the People and Bel-Rock 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) (2020)). This filing is authorized by Section 31(c)(2) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2020)), 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. On June 16, 2022, the newspaper notice was published in the *Boone County Journal*. 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) (2020); 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 Bel-Rock'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) (2020)), which bears on the reasonableness of the circumstances surrounding the alleged violations. Bel-Rock does not affirmatively admit or deny the alleged violations. The stipulation also addresses the factors of Section 42(h) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/42(h) (2020)), which may mitigate or aggravate the civil penalty amount. Under the proposed settlement, Bel-Rock agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$10,000 within 30 days after the date of this order. The People and Bel-Rock 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.

ORDER

1. The Board accepts and incorporates by reference the stipulation and proposed settlement.
2. Bel-Rock must pay a civil penalty of \$10,000 no later than September 12, 2022, which is the first business day following the 30th day after the date of this order. Bel-Rock 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. Bel-Rock must submit payment of the civil penalty to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Fiscal Services Division
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Bel-Rock must send a copy of the certified check or money order and any transmittal letter to:

Christopher Grant
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Bureau
Illinois Attorney General's Office
69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1800
Chicago, IL 60602
Christopher.Grant@ilag.gov

4. Penalties unpaid within the time prescribed will accrue interest under Section 42(g) of the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/42(g) (2020)) at the rate set forth in Section 1003(a) of the Illinois Income Tax Act (35 ILCS 5/1003(a) (2020)).

5. Bel-Rock 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.

Board Member M. Gibson abstained.

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) (2020); *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
Office of Illinois Attorney General Attn: Christopher Grant 69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1800 Chicago, Illinois 60602 Audrey.Avila@ilag.gov	Illinois Pollution Control Board Attn: Don A. Brown, Clerk 60 East Van Buren Street, Suite 630 Chicago, Illinois 60605
Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP Attn: Richard S. Porter 100 Park Avenue, P.O. Box 1389 Rockford, Illinois 61105-1389 rporter@hinshawlaw.com	

I, Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on August 11, 2022, by a vote of 4-0.



Don A. Brown, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board