

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
September 22, 2022

COUNTY OF LASALLE, )  
)  
Complainant, )  
)  
v. ) AC 23-2  
) (LaSalle County No. 09988005006)  
GERALD COPELAND, ) (Administrative Citation)  
)  
Respondent. )

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

On August 1, 2022, the County of LaSalle timely filed an administrative citation against Gerald Copeland. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31.1(c) (2020); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(b), 108.200(b)(3). The administrative citation concerns Gerald Copeland’s residential property located at 2129 North 44th Road in Sheridan, Adams Township, LaSalle County. The property is commonly known to LaSalle County as “Gerald Copeland” site and is designated with Site Code No. 09988005006. For the reasons below, the Board finds that Gerald Copeland violated the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5 (2020)) and orders Gerald Copeland to pay \$1,500 in civil penalties.

Under the Act, an administrative citation is an expedited enforcement action brought before the Board seeking civil penalties that are fixed by statute. Administrative citations may be filed only by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency or, if the Agency has delegated the authority, by a unit of local government, and only for limited types of alleged violations. *See* 415 ILCS 5/21(o), 21(p), 22.51, 22.51a, 31.1(c), 42(b)(4), 42(b)(4-5), 55(k) (2020); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.

In this case, LaSalle County alleges that on May 24, 2022, Gerald Copeland violated Section (p)(3) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/21(p)(3) (2020)) by causing or allowing the open burning of waste. LaSalle County asks the Board to impose the statutory \$1,500 civil penalty per violation on Gerald Copeland, for a total civil penalty of \$1,500. As required, LaSalle County served Gerald Copeland with the administrative citation on July 22, 2022, which is within “60 days after the date of the observed violation.” 415 ILCS 5/31.1(b) (2020); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(c), 108.200(b)(1).

To contest an administrative citation, a respondent must file a petition with the Board no later than 35 days after being served with the administrative citation. If the respondent fails to do so, the Board must find that the respondent committed the violations alleged and impose the corresponding civil penalty. *See* 415 ILCS 31.1(d)(1) (2020); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(b), 108.204(b), 108.406. Here, any petition for review was due by August 26, 2022. Gerald Copeland failed to timely file a petition. Accordingly, the Board finds that Gerald Copeland violated Section 21(p)(3) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/21(p)(3) (2020)).

The civil penalty for violating any provision of Section 21(p), 22.51, 22.51a, or 55(k) is \$1,500 for each violation, except that the penalty amount is \$3,000 for each violation that is the person's second or subsequent adjudicated violation of that provision. *See* 415 ILCS 5/42(b)(4-5) (2020); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.500(a). Because there is one violation of Section 21(p) and no indication in the record that any of these is a second or subsequent adjudicated violation, the total civil penalty is \$1,500. Under Section 31.1(d)(1) of the Act, the Board attaches the administrative citation and makes it part of the order below.

This opinion constitutes the Board's finding of fact and conclusions of law.

### **ORDER**

1. The Board finds that Gerald Copeland violated Section 21(p)(3) of the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/21(p)(3) (2020)).
2. Gerald Copeland must pay a civil penalty of \$1,500 no later than October 10, 2022, which is the first business day following the 30th day after the date of this order. Gerald Copeland must pay the civil penalty by certified check or money order, made payable to the Illinois Environmental Protection Trust Fund and the LaSalle County Treasurer. The case number and case name must appear on the certified check or money order.
3. Gerald Copeland must send one certified check or money order (for \$750.00) to:

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

Gerald Copeland must send one certified check or money order (for \$750.00) to:

LaSalle County Department of Land Use  
119 West Madison Street  
Room 107a  
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

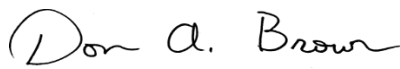
4. Penalties unpaid within the time prescribed will accrue interest under Section 42(g) of the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/42(g) (2020)) at the rate set forth in Section 1003(a) of the Illinois Income Tax Act (35 ILCS 5/1003(a) (2020)).
5. Payment of this penalty does not prevent future prosecution if the violation continues.

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) (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.

<b>Names and Addresses for Receiving Service of Any Petition for Review Filed with the Appellate Court</b>	
<b>Parties</b>	<b>Board</b>
The County of LaSalle Attn: Mark Anderson LaSalle County State's Attorney Office 707 Etna Road Ottawa, Illinois 61350	Illinois Pollution Control Board Attn: Don A. Brown, Clerk 60 East Van Buren Street, Suite 630 Chicago, Illinois 60605 don.brown@illinois.gov
Gerald Copeland 2246 N 4350th Rd Sheridan, Illinois 60551	

I, Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above opinion and order on September 22, 2022, by a vote of 5-0.



Don A. Brown, Clerk  
 Illinois Pollution Control Board