ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD October 20, 2022

)	
))	
)	PCB 23
)	(Enforce
)	
)	
)	
)	
))))))))

PCB 23-48 (Enforcement – Land, Water)

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

On October 12, 2022, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People), filed a four-count complaint against Sterigenics U.S., LLC (Sterigenics). The complaint concerns Sterigenics' commercial sterilization facility located at 7775 South Quincy Street, Willowbrook, DuPage County (Facility). 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 (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 Sterigenics violated the following Sections of the Act:

Count I:	Causing, threatening, or allowing water pollution in violation of Section 12(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12(a) (2020).
Count II:	Creating a water pollution hazard in violation of Section 12(d) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12(d) (2020).
Count III:	Causing or allowing open dumping of waste in violation of Section 21(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/21(a) (2020).
Count IV:	Disposing of waste at a facility that was not permitted for waste disposal by the Illinois EPA in violation of Section 21(e) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/21(e) (2020).

The People allege Sterigenics committed these violations by causing, threatening, or allowing the discharge of a mixture of water, ethylene glycol, and sulfuric acid (Scrubber

Solution) into the environment so as to cause or tend to cause water pollution. Specifically, the People allege Sterigenics committed the violations by discharging Scrubber Solution into the soils beneath the Facility so as to likely render the groundwater at and beneath the Facility harmful or detrimental or injurious to public health, safety or welfare, or commercial, industrial or other legitimate uses; by causing the Scrubber Solution to be deposited onto the ground at the Facility, thereby threatening the groundwater beneath the Facility and creating a water pollution hazard; by causing or allowing the discharge, deposit, spilling, leaking and/or placing of waste on the land at the Facility, which was not permitted by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for disposal of waste; and by disposing and abandoning waste at the Facility that was not permitted for waste disposal by the IEPA. The Board finds that the complaint meets the content requirements of the Board's procedural rules and accepts the complaint. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.204(c).

On October 12, 2022, simultaneously with the People's complaint, the People and Sterigenics 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). Under the proposed stipulation, Sterigenics neither admits nor denies the alleged violations and agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$65,000 and to cease and desist from future violations of the Act that were the subject of the complaint.

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) (2020); 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 October 20, 2022, by a vote of 5-0.

Don a. Brown

Don A. Brown, Clerk Illinois Pollution Control Board