

Service List

Brad Halloran
Hearing Officer
Illinois Pollution Control Board
60 E. Van Buren, Suite 630
Chicago, IL 60605
Brad.Halloran@illinois.gov
(Via Email)

Baldwinder Kaur dba BP
6941 W. 156th Place
Oak Forest, IL 60452
Balwinder0307@yahoo.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Rebecca Kanz, an Assistant Attorney General, do certify that on this 14th day of March, 2024, I caused to be served a copy of the foregoing Notice of Filing and Motion to Deem Facts Admitted and for Summary Judgment against Respondent Balwinder Kaur dba BP, upon the persons listed on the attached Service List via electronic and certified mail with return receipt.

/s/ Rebecca Kanz

Rebecca Kanz

Assistant Attorney General

Environmental Bureau

Illinois Attorney General's Office

69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1800

Chicago, Illinois 60602

(312) 814-3532

Rebecca.Kanz@ilag.gov

2. On approximately April 27, 2017, Respondent replaced the gasoline dispensers at the Facility with dispensers that do not have the vapor collection and control system.

3. On November 19, 2023, over six years after required to do so, Respondent submitted the decommissioning checklist and certification that documented the decommissioning procedures performed at the Facility.

4. On September 8, 2023, Complainant filed its Proof of Service of the May 31, 2023, Complaint with the Board.

5. The Proof of Service indicated that Respondent had been served with the Complaint on September 7, 2023. A true and correct copy of the Proof of Service is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

6. As of the date of the filing of this Motion, Respondent has not filed an Answer, nor otherwise pled, to the Complaint.

7. Section 103.204(d) and (e) of the Board's Procedural Rules, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.204(d) and (e), provides as follows:

(d) Except as provided in subsection (e), the respondent must file an answer within 60 days after receipt of the complaint if respondent wants to deny any allegations in the complaint. All material allegations of the complaint will be taken as admitted if no answer is filed or if not specifically denied by the answer, unless respondent asserts a lack of knowledge sufficient to form a belief. Any facts constituting an affirmative defense must be plainly set forth before hearing in the answer or in a supplemental answer, unless the affirmative defense could not have been known before hearing.

(e) If the respondent timely files a motion under Section 103.212(b) or 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.506, the 60-day period to file an answer described in subsection (d) will be stayed. The stay will begin when the motion is filed and end when the Board disposes of the motion.

8. By failing to answer the Complaint on or before November 6, 2023, and by failing to file a motion staying the 60-day period in which to file an Answer as required by Sections

103.204(d) and (e) of the Board's Procedural Rules, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.204(d) and (e), Respondent has admitted the material allegations asserted in the Complaint.

9. Complainant therefore requests that the Board enter an order finding that pursuant to Sections 103.204(d) and (e), 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103.204(d) and (e), Respondent has admitted all material allegations asserted in the Complaint.

10. Complainant's Complaint sufficiently states facts establishing the following violations of the Act and Board Air Pollution Regulations against Respondent:

Count I: Failure to Timely Decommission Vapor Collection and Control System and Submit Reports: Section 9(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/9(a) (2022), and Sections 218.586(i)(1)(B) and 218.586(i)(2)(C) of the Board Air Pollution Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 218.586(i)(1)(B) and 218.586(i)(2)(C).

11. Section 101.516(b) of the Board's Procedural Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.516(b), provides as follows:

(b) If the record, including pleadings, depositions and admissions on file, together with any affidavits, shows that there is no genuine issue of material fact, and that the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, the Board will enter summary judgment.

12. If the Board finds that Respondent has admitted all material allegations in Complainant's Complaint, then the record shows that there is no issue of material fact remaining for review. Therefore, pursuant to Section 101.516(b) of the Board's Procedural Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.516(b), Complainant is entitled to summary judgment in its favor as a matter of law.

WHEREFORE, Complainant, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, by KWAME RAOUL, Attorney General of the State of Illinois, respectfully request that that Board issue an order in favor of Complainant and against Respondent Balwinder Kaur, d/b/a BP, as follows:

A. Finding all material allegations in the Complaint admitted against Respondent;

B. Finding that Respondent violated Section 9(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/9(a) (2022), and Sections 218.586(i)(1)(B) and 218.586(i)(2)(C) of the Board Air Pollution Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 218.586(i)(1)(B) and 218.586(i)(2)(C);

C. Granting summary judgment in favor of Complainant and against Respondent on Count I of the Complaint;

D. Assessing a civil penalty in the amount of at least Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) against Respondent for its violation of the Act and Board Air Pollution Regulations.

COMPLAINANT'S ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OF ITS PROPOSED REMEDY

The June 15, 2023 Board Order in this cause provides, in pertinent part:

Accordingly, the Board further directs the hearing officer to advise the parties that in summary judgment motions and responses, at hearing, and in briefs, each party should consider: (1) proposing a remedy for a violation, if any (including whether to impose a civil penalty), and supporting its position with facts and arguments that address any or all of the Section 33(c) factors; and (2) proposing a civil penalty, if any (including a specific total dollar amount and the portion of that amount attributable to the respondent's economic benefit, if any, from delayed compliance), and supporting its position with facts and arguments that address any or all of the Section 42(h) factors

Pursuant to the June 15, 2023 Board Order, Complainant is proposing a remedy for Respondent's violations of Section 9(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/9(a) (2022), and Sections 218.586(i)(1)(B) and 218.586(i)(2)(C) of the Board Air Pollution Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 218.586(i)(1)(B) and 218.586(i)(2)(C), in the form of a civil penalty against Respondent.

Impact on the Public Resulting from Respondent's Alleged Non-Compliance

In determining whether a civil penalty is warranted, the Board must consider the factors set forth in Section 33(c) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/33(c). *Toyol Am., Inc. v. Illinois Pollution Control Board*, 2012 IL App (3d) 100585, ¶ 28 (3d Dist. 2012). The factors provided in Section 33(c) bear on the reasonableness of the circumstances surrounding the violation. *People v. John Prior d/b/a*

Prior Oil Co. and James Mezo d/b/a Mezo Oil Co., (PCB 02-177), Slip Op. at 29 (May 6, 2004).

Section 33(c) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/33(c) (2022), provides as follows:

In making its orders and determinations, the Board shall take into consideration all the facts and circumstances bearing upon the reasonableness of the emissions, discharges, or deposits involved including, but not limited to:

1. the character and degree of injury to, or interference with the protection of the health, general welfare and physical property of the people;
2. the social and economic value of the pollution source;
3. the suitability or unsuitability of the pollution source to the area in which it is located, including the question of priority of location in the area involved;
4. the technical practicability and economic reasonableness of reducing or eliminating the emissions, discharges or deposits resulting from such pollution source; and
5. any subsequent compliance.

In response to these factors, Complainant states the following:

1. Human health and the environment were threatened by emissions of volatile organic compounds at the Facility caused by Respondent's violations. Additionally, the Illinois EPA's information gathering responsibilities were hindered by Respondent's violations.

2. There is social and economic benefit to the Facility.

3. Operation of the Facility was and is suitable for the area in which it is located.

4. Timely decommissioning of its vapor collection and control system, and timely submission of a decommissioning checklist, certification, and test results to the Illinois EPA, were both technically practicable and economically reasonable.

5. Respondent has subsequently complied with the Act and the Board regulations.

In consideration of these factors, the Board should assess a civil penalty in the amount of at least Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) against Respondent for its violation of the Act and Board Air Pollution Regulations.

Explanation of Civil Penalty Requested

Section 2(b) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/2(b) (2022), provides:

It is the purpose of this Act, as more specifically described in later sections, to establish a unified, state-wide program supplemented by private remedies, to restore, protect and enhance the quality of the environment, *and to assure that adverse effects upon the environment are fully considered and borne by those who cause them.* (Emphasis added.)

The primary purpose of civil penalties is to aid in the enforcement of the Act. *See People v. McHenry Shores Water Co.*, 295 Ill. App. 3d 628, 638 (2d Dist. 1998). Civil penalties should reflect the severity of the violation(s) of the Act. *Southern Illinois Asphalt Company, Inc. v. Pollution Control Board*, 60 Ill. App. 2d 204, 208 (5th Dist. 1975). However, the Act authorizes civil penalties regardless of whether violations resulted in actual pollution. *ESG Watts, Inc. v. Illinois Pollution Control Board*, 282 Ill. App. 3d 43, 52 (4th Dist. 1996). Moreover, the award of a civil penalty “serves the legislative purpose of aiding enforcement of the Act, for through penalties upon those who blatantly disregard applicable rules and regulations, others, who might consider cutting corners at the expense of the environment, are deterred.” *Wasteland, Inc. v. Illinois Pollution Control Board*, 118 Ill. App. 3d 1041, 1055 (3d Dist. 1983) (subsequently cited by the First District; *see e.g. Standard Scrap Metal Co. v. Pollution Control Board*, 142 Ill. App 3d 655, 665 (1st Dist.1986)).

Section 42 of the Act provides guidance for calculating civil penalties for violations of the Act. In particular, Section 42(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/42(a) (2022), provides in pertinent part, as follows:

- a) Except as provided in this Section, any person that violates any provision of this Act or any regulation adopted by the Board, or any permit or term or condition thereof, or that violates any order of the Board pursuant to this Act, shall be liable for a civil penalty of not to exceed \$50,000 for the violation and an additional civil penalty of not to exceed \$10,000 for each day during which the violation continues;

Consideration of Section 42(h) Factors

Section 42(h) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/42(h) (2022), provides as follows:

In determining the appropriate civil penalty to be imposed . . . , the Board is authorized to consider any matters of record in mitigation or aggravation of penalty, including, but not limited to, the following factors:

- (1) the duration and gravity of the violation;
- (2) the presence or absence of due diligence on the part of the respondent in attempting to comply with requirements of this Act and regulations thereunder or to secure relief therefrom as provided by this Act;
- (3) any economic benefits accrued by the respondent because of delay in compliance with requirements, in which case the economic benefits shall be determined by the lowest cost alternative for achieving compliance;
- (4) the amount of monetary penalty which will serve to deter further violations by the respondent and to otherwise aid in enhancing voluntary compliance with this Act by the respondent and other persons similarly subject to the Act;
- (5) the number, proximity in time, and gravity of previously adjudicated violations of this Act by the respondent;
- (6) whether the respondent voluntarily self-disclosed, in accordance with subsection (i) of this Section, the non-compliance to the Agency;
- (7) whether the respondent has agreed to undertake a 'supplemental environmental project', which means an environmentally beneficial project that a respondent agrees to undertake in settlement of an enforcement action brought under this Act, but which the respondent is not otherwise legally required to perform; and
- (8) whether the respondent has successfully completed a Compliance Commitment Agreement under subsection (a) of Section 31 of this Act to remedy the violations that are the subject of the complaint.

In response to these factors, Complainant states as follows:

1. Respondent failed to timely decommission its vapor collection and control system on or before December 31, 2016 and failed to submit a decommissioning checklist, certification, and test results to the Illinois EPA on or before January 30, 2017, respectively. The violation regarding decommissioning the vapor collection and control system began on January 1, 2017 and continued until approximately April 27, 2017, when Respondent decommissioned the vapor collection and control system for the gasoline dispensing operations at the Facility. The violation related to the submission of a decommissioning checklist and certification began on January 1, 2017, and continued until November 19, 2023, when Respondent submitted the decommissioning checklist and certification that documented the decommissioning procedures performed at the Facility.

2. The question of good faith, or the lack thereof, is pertinent to a determination of sanctions. *Wasteland, Inc. v. Illinois Pollution Control Board*, 118 Ill.App.3d 1041 (3d Dist., 1983). Here, Respondent failed to act diligently in this matter, as evidenced by its failure to timely decommission its vapor collection and control system and submit a decommissioning checklist, certification, and test results to the Illinois EPA. As a result, Respondent caused, threatened or allowed the discharge or emission of VOCs, a contaminant, into the environment.

3. The Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) civil penalty requested by Complainant includes any economic benefit that Respondent may have accrued as a result of its noncompliance.

4. In the absence of a civil penalty sufficient to deter other persons similarly situated under the Act, no regulated entity “would ever be inclined to comply with Illinois’ environmental requirements.” *See Standard Scrap Metal Co.*, 142 Ill.App.3d at 664. Accordingly, a significant civil penalty is warranted. As such, a civil penalty in the amount of at least Ten Thousand Dollars

(\$10,000.00) will serve to deter further violations by Respondent and to otherwise aid in enhancing voluntary compliance with the Act and Board Air Pollution Regulations by Respondent and other persons similarly subject to the Act and Board Air Pollution Regulations.

5. To Complainant's knowledge, Respondent has no previously adjudicated violations of the Act.

6. Self-disclosure is not at issue in this matter.

7. Respondent did not offer to perform a supplemental environmental project.

8. A Compliance Commitment Agreement was not at issue in this matter.

In furtherance of the purposes of the Act "to assure that adverse effects upon the environment are fully considered and borne by those who cause them," 415 ILCS 5/2(b) (2022), and based on the duration of the violations and Respondent's lack of diligence to comply with Section 9(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/9(a) (2022), and Sections 218.586(i)(1)(B) and 218.586(i)(2)(C) of the Board Air Pollution Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 218.586(i)(1)(B) and 218.586(i)(2)(C), the Board should assess against Respondent a civil penalty of no less than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).

Based on the facts of this case and consideration of Section 42(h) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/42(h), the Board should assess Respondent a civil penalty in the amount of at least Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00).

WHEREFORE, Complainant, PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, by KWAME RAOUL, Attorney General of the State of Illinois, respectfully requests that the Board grant its Motion to Deem Facts Admitted and for Summary Judgment against Respondent, Balwinder Kaur d/b/a BP, and award the relief requested herein, and take such other action as the Board deems to be appropriate and just.

Respectfully submitted,

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS
by KWAME RAOUL, Attorney General
of the State of Illinois

BY: /s/ Rebecca Kanz

Rebecca Kanz
Justin Bertsche
Assistant Attorneys General
Environmental Bureau
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BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

| | | |
|--|---|---------------------|
| PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, |) | |
| by KWAME RAOUL, Attorney |) | |
| General of the State of Illinois, |) | |
| |) | |
| Complainant, |) | |
| |) | |
| v. |) | PCB No. 23-120 |
| |) | (Enforcement - Air) |
| Balwinder Kaur, d/b/a BP, an individual, |) | |
| |) | |
| Respondent. |) | |

MOTION TO DEEM FACTS ADMITTED AND FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

EXHIBIT 1

Proof of Service

Service List

Brad Halloran
Hearing Officer
Illinois Pollution Control Board
60 E. Van Buren, Suite 630
Chicago, IL 60605
Brad.Halloran@illinois.gov
(Via Email)

Baldwinder Kaur dba BP
6941 W. 156th Place
Oak Forest, IL 60452

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Rebecca Kanz, as Assistant Attorney General, do certify that on this 8th of September 2023, I caused to be served a copy of the foregoing Notice of Filing and Affidavit of Service of Notice of Filing, Complaint and Hearing Officer Orders upon Respondent Balwinder Kaur dba BP, upon the persons listed on the attached Service List via electronic and regular mail.

/s/ Rebecca Kanz

Rebecca Kanz

Assistant Attorney General

Environmental Bureau

Illinois Attorney General's Office

69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1800

Chicago, Illinois 60602

(312) 814-3532

Rebecca.Kanz@ilag.gov

STATE OF ILLINOIS

COUNTY OF _____)

)SS.

CASE NUMBER:

PCB 23-120

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

I, Mario Valenti, being first duly sworn, depose and state as follows:

I am an Investigator in the Office of the Attorney General, State of Illinois. Pursuant to 15 ILCS 205/4c investigators employed by the Attorney General have all the powers possessed by sheriffs.

I am over 21 years of age and not a party in this case.

I served the within Notice of Filing, Complaint, and Hearing Officer Order and a copy of the attached N/A

upon Balwinder Kaur, on the 7th day of Sep, 2023 at approximately 1:45 pm by:

PERSONAL service was made by giving a copy of the aforementioned Notice, Complaint, and Order to Balwinder Kaur asian, 56, female

personally at 6941 W. 156th Place in Oak Forest, IL. Cook County, Illinois.

SUBSTITUTE service on _____ was made by handing the aforementioned _____ to _____, a member of the same household, (who is 13 years of age or older) _____, _____, _____

informing that person of the contents of the above cited document(s) on the _____ day of _____, 20____ at the hour of _____, at _____, in _____, County of _____, his/her usual place of residence and by placing the document(s) in the United States Mail on _____, with postage fully prepaid and addressed to the Respondent's last known address.

CORPORATION OR PARTNERSHIP service on _____ by leaving a copy of the _____ and of the cited document(s) with _____, Registered Agent / Officer or Agent.

M. VALENTI #109
Investigator
Office of the Attorney General

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 8TH day of September, 2023 at _____

Dariusz Kerman
Notary Public

