

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
May 16, 2024

HENSON OIL COMPANY, INC., )  
 )  
 Petitioner, )  
 )  
 v. ) PCB 24-69  
 ) (UST Appeal)  
 ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL )  
 PROTECTION AGENCY, )  
 )  
 Respondent. )

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by M.D. Mankowski):

On April 30, 2024, Henson Oil Company, Inc. (Henson) timely filed a petition asking the Board to review a March 19, 2024 determination of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency). *See* 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(1) (2022); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(b), 105.402, 105.404. The Agency’s determination concerns Henson’s leaking underground storage tank (UST) site located Old Highway 66 in Towanda, McLean County. For the reasons below, the Board accepts Henson’s petition for hearing.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5 (2022)), the Agency decides whether to approve proposed cleanup plans and budgets for leaking UST sites, as well as requests for cleanup cost reimbursement from the State’s UST Fund, which consists of UST fees and motor fuel taxes. If the Agency disapproves or modifies a submittal, the UST owner or operator may appeal the decision to the Board. *See* 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(1), 57-57.17 (2022); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.Subpart D. In this case, the Agency modified Henson’s corrective action budget. Henson appeals on the grounds that the Agency’s determination was erroneous and violated the Act and Board regulations. Henson’s petition meets the content requirements of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.408.

The Board accepts the petition for hearing. Henson has the burden of proof. *See* 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 determination. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.412. Accordingly, though the Board hearing affords petitioner the opportunity to challenge the Agency’s reasons for its decision, 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-

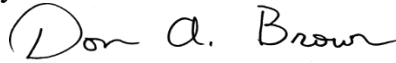
effectiveness, efficiency, facility accommodations, witness availability, public interest, the parties' preferences, and the proceeding's complexity and contentiousness. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.600(b), 105.110.

Hearings will be scheduled and completed in a timely manner, consistent with the decision deadline (*see* 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(2) (2022)), which only Henson may extend by waiver (*see* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.308). If the Board fails to take final action by the decision deadline, Henson may deem its request granted. *See* 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(2) (2022). Although the original decision deadline was Wednesday, August 28, 2024, which is the 120th day after the date on which the Board received the petition, Henson on May 13, 2024, waived its decision deadline to December 31, 2024. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.114. The Board meeting immediately before the decision deadline is scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 2024.

Unless the Board or the hearing officer orders otherwise, the Agency must file the entire record of its determination by Thursday, May 20, 2024, which is the 30th day after the date on which the Board received Henson's petition. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.116(a), 105.410(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), 105.410(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).<sup>1</sup>

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on May 16, 2024, by a vote of 4-0.



Don A. Brown, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board

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<sup>1</sup> 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.