

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
August 22, 2024

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
)
 Complainant,)
)
 v.) PCB 24-79
) (Air – Enforcement)
 VANTAGE SPECIALTIES, INC., a Delaware)
 corporation,)
)
 Respondent.)

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by J. Van Wie):

On June 21, 2024, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People), filed a two-count complaint against Vantage Specialties, Inc. (Vantage Specialties). The complaint concerns Vantage Specialties’ chemical production facility located at 3938 Porett Drive, in Gurnee, Lake County. 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 parties’ stipulation and proposed settlement.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5 (2022)), 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 (2022); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103. In this case, the People allege that Vantage Specialties violated Sections 9(b) and 9.1(d)(1) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/9(b) and 9.1(d)(1)(2022)), Sections 63.8(c)(1)(i), (c)(2), and (c)(4) of Subpart A of the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) regulations (40 C.F.R. § 63.8 (c)(1)(i), (c)(2), and (c)(4)), and Conditions 13(a), 13(c)(i), and 13(c)(ii) of Vantage Specialties’ construction permit no. 19100015 by failing to operate and maintain their Continuous Emissions Monitoring System (CEMS). The People additionally allege Vantage Specialties violated Section 9(b) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/9(b) (2022), and Condition 13(c)(i) of construction permit no. 19100015 by failing to record Ethylene Oxide (EtO) emissions from their CEMS.

On June 21, 2024, simultaneously with the People’s complaint, the People and Vantage Specialties 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) (2022)). This filing is authorized by Section 31(c)(2) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2022)), 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. The newspaper notice was published in the *Lake County News-Sun* on July 16, 2024. 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) (2022); 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 Vantage Specialties' 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) (2022)), which bears on the reasonableness of the circumstances surrounding the alleged violations. Vantage Specialties does not affirmatively admit the alleged violations. The stipulation also addresses the factors of Section 42(h) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/42(h) (2022)), which may mitigate or aggravate the civil penalty amount. Under the proposed settlement, Vantage Specialties agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$60,000 within 30 days after the date of this order. The People and Vantage Specialties 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. Vantage Specialties must pay a civil penalty of \$60,000 no later than Monday, September 23, 2024, which is the first business day following the 30th day after the date of this order. Vantage Specialties 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 face of the certified check or money order.
3. Vantage Specialties 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

Vantage Specialties must send a copy of the certified check, or money order and any transmittal letter to:

Kevin Garstka
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Bureau
Illinois Attorney General's Office
69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1800
Chicago, Illinois 60602

4. Penalties unpaid within the time prescribed will accrue interest under Section 42(g) of the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/42(g) (2022)) at the rate set forth in Section 1003(a) of the Illinois Income Tax Act (35 ILCS 5/1003(a) (2022)).
5. Vantage Specialties must cease and desist from future violations of the Environmental Protection Act, federal regulations, and construction permit conditions that were the subject of the complaint.

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) (2022); *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
Illinois Attorney General’s Office Attn.: Kevin Garstka, Asst. Atty. General Environmental Bureau 69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1800 Chicago, Illinois 60602 Kevin.Garstka@ilag.gov	Illinois Pollution Control Board Attn: Don A. Brown, Clerk 60 E. Van Buren Street, Suite 630 Chicago, Illinois 60605
Vantage Specialties, Inc. c/o LaDonna Driver Hepler Broom LLC 4340 Acer Grove, Suite A Springfield, IL 62711 ladonna.driver@heplerbroom.com	

I, Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above opinion and order on August 22, 2024, by a vote of 4-0.

Don A. Brown

Don A. Brown, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board