ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD March 19, 1987

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A.R.F. LANDFILL CORPORATION,

Petitioner,

v.

PCB 87-34

VILLAGE OF ROUND LAKE PARK and LAKE COUNTY,

Respondents.

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by B. Forcade):

On March 12, 1987, the A.R.F. Landfill Corporation ("A.R.F.") filed a Siting Application Appeal. That appeal asserts that the Village of Round Lake Park failed to act on a request for site location suitability approval for a new regional pollution control facility under Section 39.2 of the Environmental Protection Act ("Act"). A.R.F. asserts that as a result of the failure to act, this Board must determine that site location suitability approval is "deemed approved" under Section 39.2(e) of the Act.

As a preliminary matter, the Board notes one area of uncertainty. A.R.F.'s siting application appeal states that the proposed facility "...would be partially located in Round Lake Park. That part of the proposed site that would not be located in Round Lake Park would be located in unincorporated Lake County" (Appeal, 2). Because a portion of the facility is located in unincorporated Lake County, this Board is uncertain whether Lake County is a necessary party to this proceeding, under Section 39(c) of the Act which controls jurisdiction for siting applications:

> Except for those facilities owned or operated by sanitary districts organized under "An Act to create sanitary districts and to remove obstructions in the Des Plaines and Illinois rivers", approved May 29, 1889, as now or hereafter amended, no permit for the developor construction of a new regional ment pollution control facility may be granted by the Agency unless the applicant submits proof to the Agency that the location of said facility has been approved by the County Board of the county if in an unincorporated area, or the governing body of the municipality when in an incorporated area in which the facility is

to be located in accordance with Section 39.2 of this Act.

The Board has not been briefed on what role, if any, Lake County should have in this process. Consequently, the Board, on its own motion, will join Lake County as a party respondent for purposes of determining whether Lake County is a necessary party. Any party, including Lake County, may file motions and briefs opposing or supporting this joinder not later than April 10, 1987.

This action is an appeal filed March 12, 1987, pursuant to Section 40.1(b) of the Environmental Protection Act ("Act") (Ill.Rev.Stat. ch. 111/2, par. 1040.1(b). Petitioner appeals the asserted default decision of the Village of Round Lake Park ("Village").

Record Before the County Board

P.A. 82-682, also known as SB-172, as codified in Section 40.1(a) of the Act, provides that the hearing before the Board is to "be based exclusively on the record before the county board or governing body of the municipality." The statute does not specify who is to file with the Board such record or who is to certify to the completeness or correctness of the record.

As the Village alone can verify and certify what exactly is the entire record before it, in the interest of protecting the rights of all parties to this action, and in order to satisfy the intention of SB-172, the Board believes that the Village must be the party to prepare and file the record on appeal. The Board suggests that guidance in so doing can be had by reference to Section 105.102(a)(4) of the Board's Procedural Rules and to Rules 321 through 324 of the Illinois Supreme Court Rules. In addition to the actual documents which comprise the record, the Village Clerk shall also prepare a document entitled "Certificate of Record on Appeal" which shall list the documents comprising the record. Seven copies of the certificate, seven copies of the transcript of the Village hearing and three copies of any other documents in the record shall be filed with the Board, and a copy of the certificate shall be served upon the petitioner. The Clerk of the Village is given 21 days from the date of this Order to "prepare, bind and certify the record on appeal" (Ill. Supreme Court, Rule 324).

Section 40.1(a) provides that if there is no final action by the Board within 120 days, petitioner may deem the site location approved.

The Board has construed identical "in accordance with the terms of" language contained in Section 40(b) of the Act concerning third-party appeals of the grant of hazardous waste landfill permits as giving the person who had requested the permit: (a) the right to a decision within the applicable statutory time frame (now 120 days); and (b) the right to waive (extend) the decision period (Alliance for a Safe Environment, et al. v. Akron Land Corp. et al., PCB 80-184, October 30, 1980). The Board, therefore, construes Section 40.1(b) in like manner, with the result that failure of this Board to act in 120 days would allow the site location applicant to deem the site location approved. Pursuant to Section 105.104 of the Procedural Rules, it is each party's responsibility to pursue its action, and to insist that a hearing on the petition is timely scheduled in order to allow the Board to review the record and to render its decision within 120 days of the filing of the petition.

Transcription Costs

The issue of who has the burden of providing transcription in Board site location suitability appeals has been addressed in <u>Town of Ottawa, et al. v. IPCB, et al.</u>, 129 Ill. App. 3rd, 472 N.E.2d 150 (Third District, 1984). In that case, the court ordered the Board to assume transcription costs (472 N.E.2d at 155). The Supreme Court denied leave to appeal on March 14, 1985. The cognizance of this ruling, the Board will provide for stenographic transcription of the Board hearing in this matter.

Hearing must be scheduled within 14 days of the date of this Order and completed within 60 days of the date of this Order. The hearing officer shall inform the Clerk of the Board of the time and location of the hearing at least 40 days in advance of hearing so that public notice of hearing may be published. After hearing, the hearing officer shall submit an exhibit list and all actual exhibits to the Board within 5 days of the hearing. Any briefing schedule shall provide for final filings as expeditiously as possible and in no event later than 70 days from the date of this Order.

If after appropriate consultation with the parties, the parties fail to provide an acceptable hearing date or if after an attempt the hearing officer is unable to consult with the parties, the hearing officer shall unilaterally set a hearing date in conformance with the schedule above. This schedule will only provide the Board a very short time period to deliberate and reach a decision before the due date. The hearing officer and the parties are encouraged to expedite this proceeding as much as possible.

Within 10 days of accepting this case, the Hearing Officer shall enter a Hearing Officer Scheduling Order governing completion of the record. That Order shall set a date certain for each aspect of the case including: briefing schedule, hearing date(s), completion of discovery (if necessary) and prehearing conference (if necessary). The Hearing Officer Scheduling Order may be modified by entry of a complete new scheduling order conforming with the time requirements below.

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The hearing officer may extend this schedule only on a waiver of the decision deadline by the petitioner and only for the equivalent or fewer number of days that the decision deadline is waived. Such waivers must be provided in writing to the Clerk of the Board. Any waiver must be an "open waiver" or a waiver of decision until a date certain.

Because of requirements regarding the publication of notice of hearing, no scheduled hearing may be canceled unless the petitioner provides an open waiver or a waiver to a date at least 75 days beyond the date of the motion to cancel hearing. This should allow ample time for the Board to republish notice of hearing and receive transcripts from the hearing before the due date. Any order by the hearing officer granting cancellation of hearing shall include a complete new scheduling order with a new hearing date at least 40 days in the future and at least 30 days prior to the new due date and the Clerk of the Board shall be promptly informed of the new schedule.

Because this proceeding is the type for which the Illinois Environmental Protection Act sets a very short statutory deadline for decisionmaking, absent a waiver, the Board will grant extensions or modifications only in unusual circumstances. Any such motion must set forth an alternative schedule for notice, hearing, and final submissions, as well as the deadline for decision, including response time to such a motion. However, no such motion shall negate the obligation of the hearing officer to set a date pursuant to the fourth paragraph of this Order, and to adhere to that Order until modified.

IT IS SO ORDERED

I, Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify that the above Order was adopted on the /94 day of ______, 1987, by a vote of ______.

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Dorothy M./Gunn, Clerk Illinois Pollution Control Board