ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD March 20, 2025

| PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, |) |
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| Complainant, |) |
| V. |) PCB 25-45) (Enforcement - Air) |
| MENASHA PACKAGING COMPANY, LLC a Wisconsin limited liability company, | |
| Respondent. |) |

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

On February 5, 2025, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People), filed a one-count complaint against Menasha Packaging Company, LLC (Menasha Packaging). The complaint concerns Menasha Packaging's property located at 4545 West Palmer Street in Chicago, Cook County. The parties now seek to settle 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 on behalf of the People to enforce Illinois' environmental requirements. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31 (2022); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103. In this case, the People allege that Menasha Packaging violated Section 39.5(6)(b) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/39.5(6)(b) (2022)) by operating a Clean Air Act Permit Program source without a valid operating permit.

On February 5, 2025, the People and Menasha Packaging 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 *Chicago Sun-Times* on February 21, 2025. 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 Menasha Packaging's 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. Menasha Packaging admits the alleged violation. 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, Menasha Packaging agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$37,500 within 30 days after the date of this order. The People and Menasha Packaging 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.

<u>ORDER</u>

- 1. The Board accepts and incorporates by reference the stipulation and proposed settlement.
- 2. Menasha Packaging must pay a civil penalty of \$37,500 no later than Monday, April 21, 2025, which is the first business day following the 30th day after the date of this order. Menasha Packaging 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 certified check or money order.
- 3. Menasha Packaging must submit payment of the civil penalty to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Fiscal Services Division 2520 West Iles Avenue P.O. Box 19276 Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Menasha Packaging must send a copy of the certified check or money order and any transmittal letter to:

Justin Bertsche, Assistant Attorney General Environmental Bureau Illinois Attorney General's Office 69 West 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. Menasha Packaging must cease and desist from future violations of the Environmental Protection Act 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 | | |
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| Parties | Board | |
| Justin Bertsche, Assistant Attorney General Environmental Bureau Illinois Attorney General's Office 69 West Washington Street, Suite 1800 Chicago, Illinois 60602 Justin.Bertsche@ilag.gov | Illinois Pollution Control Board Attn: Don A. Brown, Clerk 60 East Van Buren Street, Suite 630 Chicago, Illinois 60605 <u>don.brown@illinois.gov</u> | |
| Menasha Packaging Company, LLC Attn.: Thomas Curran, Director Safety, Security, and Crisis Management 7800 West 71st Street Bridgeview, Illinois 60455 thomas.curran@menasha.com | | |

I, Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above opinion and order on March 20, 2025, by a vote of 5-0.

Don a. Brown

Don A. Brown, Clerk Illinois Pollution Control Board