

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

November 6, 2025

BFI WASTE SYSTEMS OF NORTH)
AMERICA, LLC,)
)
Petitioner,)
)
v.) PCB 26-30
) (Permit Appeal - RCRA)
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)
PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
Respondent.)

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by M. Gibson):

On October 30, 2025, BFI Waste Systems of North America, LLC (BFI) timely filed a petition asking the Board to review a September 25, 2025 determination of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency).¹ *See* 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(1) (2024); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(b), 105.206. The determination concerns the hazardous waste management facility operated by BFI at 701 Green Bay Road in Zion, Lake County. For the reasons below, the Board accepts the petition for review.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5 (2024)), the Agency is the permitting authority, responsible for administering Illinois' regulatory programs to protect the environment. If the Agency denies a permit or grants one with conditions, the permit applicant may appeal the Agency's decision to the Board. *See* 415 ILCS 5/4, 5, 40(a)(1) (2024); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105. Subpart D. In the determination, the Agency issued a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste management post-closure permit with conditions for BFI's hazardous waste management facility. BFI appeals on the grounds that the Agency's determinations exceed its statutory authority and are not necessary to accomplish the purpose of the Act. BFI's petition meets the content requirements of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.210.

The Board accepts the petition for hearing. BFI has the burden of proof. 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(1) (2024); *see also* 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 permit decision. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.214(a). Accordingly, though the Board hearing affords a permit applicant the opportunity to challenge the Agency's reasons for denying or conditionally granting the permit, 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

¹ The Agency served its determination on BFI on September 29, 2025, and the 35-day appeal deadline is Monday, November 3, 2025. On October 23, 2025, the parties requested to extend the appeal period. Before the Board acted on that request, BFI timely filed its petition within the original 35-day deadline, and the Board declines the requested extension as unnecessary.

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) (2024)), which only BFI may extend by waiver (*see* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.308). If the Board fails to take final action by the decision deadline, BFI "shall be entitled to an Appellate Court order pursuant to subsection (d) of Section 41 of this Act [415 ILCS 5/41(d) (2024)]." 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(3) (2024). Currently, the decision deadline is Friday, February 27, 2026, which is the 120th day after the Board received the petition. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.114. The Board meeting immediately before the decision deadline is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2026.

Unless the Board or the hearing officer orders otherwise, the Agency must file the entire record of its determination by Monday, December 1, 2025, which is 30 days after the Board received BFI's petition. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.116(a), 105.212(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), 105.212(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).²

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on November 6, 2025, by a vote of 5-0.

Don A. Brown

Don A. Brown, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board

² 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.