

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
July 10, 1997

ESG WATTS, INC., an Iowa corporation,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	PCB 98-2
)	(Pollution Control Facility
SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS,)	Siting Appeal)
)	
Respondent.)	

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by C.A. Manning):

This matter is before the Board on an appeal filed on July 3, 1997, by ESG Watts, Inc. (petitioner), an Iowa corporation, pursuant to Section 40.1(a) of the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5/40.1(a) (1996)). Petitioner filed this appeal from the decision of the Sangamon County Board denying local siting approval for the Sangamon Valley Landfill located in Sangamon County, Illinois.

The cited section of the Act generally requires the Board to decide the instant petition within 120 days of filing (unless the petitioner files a waiver of the statutory decision deadline pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.105). This matter is accepted for hearing.

RECORD BEFORE SANGAMON COUNTY BOARD

P.A. 82-682, also known as SB-172, as codified in Section 40.1(a) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/40.1(a) (1996)), 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 County of Sangamon 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 County of Sangamon must be the party to prepare and file the record on appeal. The Board suggests that guidance in so doing can be had by referring to Rules 321 through 324 of the Illinois Supreme Court Rules. 155 Ill. 2d R. 321-324. The record shall contain legible versions of all documents, transcripts, and exhibits deemed to pertain to this proceeding from initial filing through and including final action by the local government body. The record shall contain the originals of all documents and shall be sequentially numbered, placing the letter “C” before the number of such page. In addition to the actual documents which comprise the record, the Sangamon County Clerk shall also prepare a document entitled “Certificate of Record on Appeal” which shall be an index of

the record that lists the documents comprising the record and shows the page numbers upon which they start and end. Seven copies of the certificate, seven copies of the transcript of the County of Sangamon 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 County of Sangamon is given 21 days from the date of this order to “prepare, bind and certify the record on appeal.” 155 Ill. 2d. R. 324. If the record is not legible, is not sequentially numbered, or fails to include an appropriate index of record, the Clerk of the Pollution Control Board may refuse to accept the document for filing.

WAIVER OF DECISION DEADLINE

Section 40.1(a) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/40.1(a) (1996)) 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 (415 ILCS 5/40(b) (1996)) concerning third-party appeals of the grant of hazardous waste landfill permits as giving the person who had requested the permit: (1) the right to a decision within the applicable statutory time frame (now 120 days), and (2) the right to waive (extend) the decision period (Alliance for a Safe Environment, et al. v. Akron Land Corp. et al (October 30, 1980), PCB 80-184). The Board therefore construes Section 40.1(b) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/40.1(b) (1996)) 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 (35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.104), 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 Town of Ottawa, et al. v. Pollution Control Board, et al., 129 Ill. App. 3rd, 472 N.E.2d 150 (3rd Dist. 1984). In that case, the court ordered the Board to assume transcription costs (Town of Ottawa, 472 N.E.2d at 155). The Illinois Supreme Court denied leave to appeal on March 14, 1985. In cognizance of this ruling, the Board will provide for stenographic transcription of the Board hearing in this matter.

SCHEDULING AND CONDUCT OF HEARING

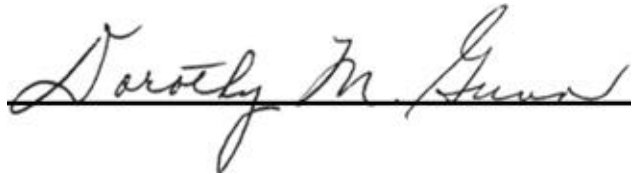
The hearing must be scheduled and completed in a timely manner, consistent with Board practices and the applicable statutory decision deadline, or the decision deadline as extended by a waiver. (Petitioner may file a waiver of the statutory decision deadline pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.105.) The Board will assign a hearing officer to conduct hearings consistent with this order, and the Clerk of the Board shall promptly issue appropriate directions to that assigned hearing officer.

The assigned hearing officer shall inform the Clerk of the Board of the time and location of the hearing at least 30 days in advance of hearing so that a 21-day public notice of hearing may be published. After hearing, the hearing officer shall submit an exhibit list, a statement regarding credibility of witnesses and all actual exhibits to the Board within five days of the hearing. Any briefing schedule shall provide for final filings as expeditiously as possible and, in time-limited cases, no later than 30 days prior to the decision due date, which is the final regularly scheduled Board meeting date on or before the statutory or deferred decision deadline. Absent any future waivers of the decision deadline, the statutory decision deadline is now October 31, 1997 (120 days from July 3, 1997); the Board meeting immediately preceding the decision deadline is scheduled for October 16, 1997.

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. The hearing officer and the parties are encouraged to expedite this proceeding as much as possible.

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 10th day of July 1997, by a vote of 6-0.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dorothy M. Gunn", written over a horizontal line.

Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board