

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
April 24, 1975

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)
Complainant,)
)
)
v.) PCB 74-326
)
)
HAAG LABORATORIES,)
Respondent.)

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by Mr. Dumelle):

This enforcement actions involves a complaint filed by the Attorney General on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency on September 6, 1974. Haag Laboratories is charged with operating a treatment works without an operating permit from the Agency in violation of Rule 903(a) of the Pollution Control Board Regulations, Chapter 3 (Water Pollution Regulations), and Sections 12(a) and 12(b) of the Environmental Protection Act. A hearing was held on February 3, 1975, wherein a stipulation and proposal for settlement were entered into. Such stipulation constitutes the entire record in this case.

Haag owns and operates a chemical manufacturing facility located in Dixmoor, Cook County, Illinois, engaged in the manufacture of detergent intermediates and a finished shampoo product. Its facility includes a neutralization treatment tank of 12,000 gallon capacity with automatic pH adjustment, having connections for discharge into a municipal sewer system tributary to the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago - Calumet Sewage Treatment Plant. Wastewater containing hydrochloric acid is discharged to the treatment plant as a by-product of the reaction of chlorosulfonic acid and lauryl alcohol to produce lauryl sulfate. Miscellaneous plant wastes and the run-off from an underground tunnel are collected in underground storage tanks and subsequently are discharged to the treatment tank. The wastes discharged to the treatment tanks are neutralized with aqueous sodium hydroxide or ammonium hydroxide, forming aqueous salt solutions which are discharged to the aforesaid sewer system at approximately neutral pH.

Haag commenced operating the treatment works in August of 1973 and continued the operation of such treatment works up to the filing of the complaint on September 6, 1974. The discharge to the municipal sewer system was at all times approved by the Metropolitan Sanitary District, from which a permit had been obtained. Haag was under the impression that such approval and permit satisfied all requirements for the treatment and discharge to the sewer system. Soon after the filing of the complaint, Haag submitted a permit application to the Agency on October 17, 1974. A permit was issued on December 23, 1974. Haag admits having operating the treatment works from August, 1973 to September 6, 1974 without an operating permit issued by the Agency. We find that this stipulation is adequate to warrant finding Haag in violation as alleged in the complaint.

By way of mitigation the stipulation further provides that in another matter under investigation by the Agency, not the subject of a complaint before the Board, involving a water pollution problem of indeterminate origin, Haag is cooperating in the clean up of a ditch or creek flowing through its property at a cost in excess of \$15,000.

Haag further stipulated that it agreed to pay, immediately upon receipt of this Order, a penalty of \$500 in full settlement of the causes of action alleged in the complaint and occurring prior to the date of the stipulation. We accept the terms of this settlement in full.

This Opinion constitutes the Board's findings of fact and conclusion of law.

ORDER

Haag Laboratories, Inc. is ordered to pay, upon receipt of this Order, the penalty of \$500 for the violations of Rule 903(a) and Sections 12(a) and 12(b) found herein. Penalty payment by certified check or money order payable to the State of Illinois shall be made to: Fiscal Services Division, Environmental Protection Agency, 2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, Illinois 62706.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order was adopted on the 24th day of April, 1975 by a vote of 4-0.


Christan L. Moffett, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board