

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

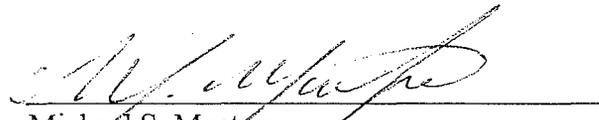
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS)
 LISA MADIGAN, Attorney General)
 State of Illinois,)
)
 Complainant,)
)
 vs.)
)
 SMITHFIELD PROPERTIES, L.L.C.)
 An Illinois limited liability Company,)
 WOOTON CONSTRUCTION LTD., an)
 Illinois corporation, and CHICAGO SUN-TIMES,)
 INC., a Delaware Corporation,)
)
 Respondents.)

PCB 04-192
(Enforcement-Land, Water)

NOTICE OF FILING

TO: Zemeheret Bereket-Ab, Esq. Kevin B. Hynes
 Assistant Attorney General O'Keefe, Lyons & Hynes, LLC
 Environmental Bureau 30 North LaSalle Street
 188 W. Randolph Street, 20th Floor Suite 4100
 Chicago, Illinois 60601 Chicago, Illinois 60602

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that I have today filed with the Clerk of the Pollution Control Board **Chicago Sun-Times, Inc.'s Answer**, a copy of which is herewith served upon you.



Michael S. Mostow

DATED: July 23, 2004

Janine M. Landow-Esser
 Michael S. Mostow
 QUARLES & BRADY LLC
 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 3700
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ATTORNEYS FOR RESPONDENT
CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, INC.

THIS DOCUMENT IS SUBMITTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

JUL 23 2004

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS)
LISA MADIGAN, Attorney General)
State of Illinois,)
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Complainant,)
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SMITHFIELD PROPERTIES, L.L.C.)
An Illinois limited liability)
Company, WOOTON CONSTRUCTION)
LTD., an Illinois corporation, and)
CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, INC., a Delaware)
Corporation,)
)
Respondents.)

No. PCB No. 04-192
(Enforcement-Land &
Water)

ANSWER

Respondent, Chicago Sun-Times, Inc. ("Sun-Times), by its attorneys, Quarles & Brady
LLP, for its Answer to Complainant's Complaint, states as follows:

I. VIOLATIONS BY SMITHFIELD AND WOOTON

COUNT I

FAILURE TO PERFORM SITE EVALUATION AND CLASSIFICATION

1. This Complaint is brought on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois, by Lisa Madigan, Attorney General of the State of Illinois, on her own motion, and at the request of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency ("Illinois EPA") pursuant to the terms and provision of Section 31 of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act ("Act"), 415 ILCS 5/31 (2002).

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 1.

2. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Smithfield Properties, L.L.C. ("Smithfield") was and is an Illinois limited liability company.

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 2.

3. At all times relevant to this Complaint, Wooton Construction, Ltd. ("Wooton") was and is an Illinois corporation.

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 3.

4. At all times relevant to this Complaint, the piece of land where the alleged violations occurred is located at 222 South Racine Avenue, Chicago, Illinois ("Site"). The Site used to be an industrial area which has now been developed into 42 town home units. For a number of years the Chicago Sun-Times, Inc., a Delaware corporation, ("Sun-Times") used the Site as a home for its Daily News fleet maintenance garage.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits that the property in issue is located at 222 South Racine Avenue in Chicago, Illinois. Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in the second sentence in paragraph 4. Sun-Times denies the allegations in the third sentence of paragraph 4.

5. Historically, the Site has had several petroleum underground storage tanks ("USTs"). Some of the USTs were installed as far back as the 1950's. Some of the USTs have been removed and some still remain abandoned in place at the Site.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in the first and third sentences of paragraph 5. Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in the second sentence in paragraph 5.

6. From sometime prior to 1917 until it sold the property to Smithfield in October 1999, the Sun-Times was the owner of the Site and all of the USTs which were installed at the Site.

ANSWER: Sun-Times denies the allegations in paragraph 6.

7. On August 2, 1991, the Illinois State Fire Marshal received from the Sun-Times a Notification for Underground Storage Tanks which notified the State Fire Marshal that the Sun-Times was the owner and operator of eight (8) USTs at the Site.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 7.

8. The Sun-Times used the USTs to store fuel for its fleet maintenance garage located at the Site.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 8.

9. On April 23, 1999, the Sun-Times, after informing the Office of the State Fire Marshal ("OSFM"), removed one active 10,000 gallon unleaded gasoline UST from the Site. During removal, the Sun-Times discovered that a release of petroleum products had occurred in the vicinity of the 10,000 gallon unleaded gasoline UST at some undetermined time. The Sun-Times reported the release incident to the Illinois EPA which cataloged it as LUST Incident No. 99103. Sun-Times then performed remediation of the soil contaminated with gasoline at the vicinity where the 10,000 gallon unleaded gasoline tank was removed.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 9 except the allegation that the LUST Incident No. was 99103. The correct Incident No. is 991013.

10. On October 26, 1999, the Illinois EPA issued a No Further Remediation letter to the Sun-Times for LUST Incident No. 991013 based upon the 45 day/Corrective Action Completion Report submitted to the Illinois EPA by Sun-Times.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 10.

11. Respondent Sun-Times did not perform a groundwater investigation to determine the extent of ground water contamination at the time it removed the 10,000 gallon unleaded gasoline UST.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits that it did not perform a groundwater investigation in connection with the removal of the 10,000 gallon unleaded gasoline UST. Groundwater was not encountered and clearance samples following soil remediation met residential standards under IEPA's Tiered Approach to Corrective Action. Therefore, no groundwater investigation was necessary.

12. On December 3, 1998, the Sun-Times entered into an agreement to sell the property to Kenard Investments, Inc. ("Kenard") and on October 27, 1999, Kenard assigned its interest to Smithfield. On June 6, 2002, almost four years after the sale, Sun-Times informed the OSFM it had sold the property to Kenard.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits that it entered into an agreement to sell the property to Kenard on December 3, 1998 and that almost four years after the sale, Sun-Times informed the OSFM it had sold the property to Kenard. Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the remaining allegations in paragraph 12.

13. Prior to the sale of the Site, Sun-Times did not remediate the soil at the Site, with the exception of the small area impacted with gasoline under LUST Incident No. 991013. Sun-Times left in-place soil contaminated with either gasoline and/or diesel fuel from either leaking USTs and/or surface spills when Sun-Times was using the Site for a number of years as a fleet vehicle maintenance and refueling facility.

ANSWER: Sun-Times denies the allegations in paragraph 13.

14. At an unspecified date, Smithfield and Wooton began constructing a town house complex on the Site purchased from Sun-Times. Several of the town houses were constructed on top of the contaminated soil.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in the first sentence in paragraph 14. Sun-Times denies the remaining allegations in paragraph 14.

15. In November 1999, Wooton removed an active 10,000 gallon diesel UST from the Site. Wooton removed the UST without permission from the OSFM or a permit from the City of Chicago Department of the Environment.

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 15.

16. In the Spring of 2001, while Respondents Smithfield and Wooton were conducting construction related activities at the Site, an on-site drinking water main ruptured. Shortly after the rupture of the drinking water main, a resident of the new town homes at the Site reported a petroleum taste in his drinking water.

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 16.

17. When consultants hired by Wooton were investigating the petroleum tasting water complaint, they discovered that the soil in the area where the water main ruptured was contaminated with diesel fuel.

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 17.

18. Upon information and belief, Complainant alleges that the source of the soil contamination in the area where the water main ruptured was from one or more of the USTs owned and operated by Sun-Times and/or surface spills of petroleum products over a number of years when Sun-Times used the Site as a fleet vehicle maintenance and refueling (sic) facility.

ANSWER: Sun-Times denies the allegations in paragraph 18.

19. In April 2001, Wooton retained an engineering firm to conduct subsurface investigation and remediation activities.

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 19.

20. On May 24, 2001, the engineering firm retained by Wooton submitted to the Illinois EPA LUST Section its remedial action completion report. The remediation consisted of removing 425 tons of diesel contaminated soil to a depth of 3 to 4 feet and backfilling the area with clean clay soil. Contaminated soil was removed from areas in the open courtyard in front of town home units numbers 23 through 42.

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 20.

21. On July 27, 2001, the Illinois EPA rejected the remedial action completion report because contamination still remains at the site. Since groundwater was encountered at the Site, a full groundwater investigation should have been conducted to determine the extent of groundwater contamination.

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 21.

22. On January 28, 2002, the Illinois EPA received a groundwater classification study and Tier 2 evaluation submitted by Smithfield. On March 20, 2002, the Illinois EPA rejected the study because groundwater contaminant analysis was not conducted.

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 22.

23. Section 57.6(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/57.6(a)(2002), titled, Underground storage tanks; early action, provides as follows:

- (a) Owners and operators of underground storage tanks shall, in response to all confirmed releases, comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory reporting and response requirements.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 23.

24. Section 732.103 of the Illinois Pollution Control Board ("Board") Waste Disposal Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code, 732.103 titled, Definitions, provides the following pertinent definitions:

"CORRECTIVE ACTION" means activities associated with compliance with the provisions of Sections 57.6 and 57.7 of the Act. (Section 57.2 of the Act.)

"RESIDENTIAL UNIT" means a structure used primarily for dwelling purposes including multi-unit dwellings such as apartment buildings, condominiums, cooperatives or dormitories.

"SITE" means any single location, place, tract of land or parcel of property including contiguous property not separated by a public right-of-way. (Section 3.61 of the Act)

"UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK" or "UST" means any one or combination of tanks (including underground pipes connected thereto) which is used to contain an accumulation of regulated substances, and the volume of which (including the volume of underground pipes connected thereto) is 10 per centum or more beneath the surface of the ground. Such term does not include any of the following or any pipes connected thereto.

"UST SYSTEM" or "tank system" means an underground storage tank, connected underground piping, underground ancillary equipment, and containment system, if any.

"OCCURRENCE" means any release from an underground storage tank, including any additional release from that underground storage tank at the site identified in the course of performing corrective action in response to the initial release. (Section 57.2 of the Act)

"OSFM" means the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

"OPERATOR" means any person in control of, or having responsibility for, the daily operation of the underground storage tank. (42 U.S.C. Section 6991)

"OWNER" in the case of an underground storage tank in use on November 8, 1984, or brought into use after that date, any person who owns an underground storage tank used for the storage, use or dispensing of regulated substances;

"PERSON" means, for the purposes of interpreting the definitions of the terms "owner" or "operator," an individual, trust, firm, joint stock company, joint venture, consortium, commercial entity, corporation (including a government corporation), partnership, association, state, municipality, commission, political subdivision of a state, or any interstate body and shall include the United States

Government and each department, agency, and instrumentality of the United States. (Derived from 42 U.S.C. Section 6991)

“PETROLEUM” means petroleum, including crude oil or any fraction thereof which is liquid at standard conditions of temperature and pressure (60° F and 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute). (Derived from 42 U.S.C. Section 6991)

“PHYSICAL SOIL CLASSIFICATION” means verification of geological conditions consistent with regulations for identifying and protecting potable resource groundwater or verification that subsurface strata are as generally mapped in the publication Illinois Geological Survey Circular (1984) entitled “Potential for Contamination of Shallow Aquifers in Illinois,” by Berg, Richard C., et al. Such classification may include review of soil borings, well logs, physical soil analysis, regional geologic maps, or other scientific publications (Section 57.2 of the Act).

“RELEASE” means any spilling, leaking, emitting, discharging, escaping, leaching, or disposing of petroleum from an underground storage tank into groundwater, surface water or subsurface soils. (Section 57.2 of the Act)

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 24.

25. Pursuant to the definition of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 732.103, Respondents are owners of the USTs at the Site because the USTs were in use on November 8, 1984, or brought into use after that date.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations of paragraph 25 as they relate to Smithfield.

Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 25 as they relate to Wooton. Sun-Times denies the allegations in paragraph 25 to the extent that they are directed to the Sun-Times.

26. The USTs at the Site and their associated underground equipment are UST systems as that term is defined by 35 Ill. Adm. Code 731.103.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 26.

27. There was a release of petroleum products on the Site on or before November 1999, as the term “release” is defined by 35 Ill. Adm. Code 722.103.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 27.

28. Section 732.300(a) of the Board Waste Disposal Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 732.300(a), titled, General, provides as follows:

- (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) below, the owner or operator of any site subject to this part shall evaluate and classify the site in accordance with the requirements of this Subpart C. All such sites shall be classified as “No Further Action,” “Low Priority” or “High Priority”. Site classifications shall be based on the results of the site evaluation, including, but not limited to, the physical soil classification and the groundwater investigation, if applicable.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegation in paragraph 28.

29. Section 732.307(a) of the Board Waste Disposal Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 732.307(a), titled, *Site Evaluation*, provides as follows:

- (a) Except as provided in Section 732.200(b), the owner or operator of any site for which a release of petroleum has been confirmed in accordance with regulations promulgated by the OSFM and reported to IEMA shall arrange for site evaluation and classification in accordance with the requirements of this Section. A Licensed Professional Engineer (or, where appropriate, persons working under the direction of a Licensed Professional Engineer) shall conduct the site evaluation. The results of the site evaluation shall provide the basis for determining the site evaluation. The results of the site evaluation shall provide the basis for determining the site classification. The site classification shall be certified as required by the supervising Licensed Professional Engineer.

ANSWER: Sun-Times denies the allegations in paragraph 29.

30. Section 732.100(c) of the Board Waste Disposal Regulations, titled, *Applicability*, provides as follows:

* * *

- (c) Owners or operators subject to this Part by law or by election shall proceed expeditiously to comply with all requirements of the Act and the regulations and to obtain the “No Further Remediation” letter signifying final disposition of the site for purposes of this Part. The Agency may use its authority pursuant to the Act and Section 732.105 of this part to expedite investigative, preventive or corrective action by an owner or operator or to initiate such action.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 30.

31. Respondents, Smithfield and Wooton as owners and/or operators of the Site where a release of petroleum products occurred did not perform a site evaluation and classification in accordance with the requirements of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 732.300(a) and 732.307(a).

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 31.

32. By failing to perform site evaluation and classification in accordance with 35 Ill. Adm. Code 732.300(a) and 732.307(a), Respondents Smithfield and Wooton violated Section 732.100(c) of the Board Waste Disposal Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 732.100(c) and, thereby violated Section 57.6(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/57.6(a)(2002).

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 32.

COUNT II

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REPORTING AND RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS

1-27 Complainant realleges and incorporates by reference herein, paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count I as paragraphs 1 through 27 of this Count II.

ANSWER: Sun-Times incorporates its answers to paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count I as its answers to paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count II.

28. Section 732.200 of the Board Waste Disposal Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 732.200, titled, *General* provides as follows:

Owners and operators of underground storage tanks shall, in response to all confirmed releases of petroleum, comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory reporting and response requirements. (Section 57.6(a) of the Act) No work plan shall be required for conducting early action activities.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 28.

29. Respondents Smithfield and Wooton failed to report the confirmed release of petroleum products at the Site in accordance with the requirement of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 732.200.

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 29.

30. By failing to report the confirmed release of petroleum products at the Site, Respondents Smithfield and Wooton violated Section 732.200 of the Board Waste Disposal Regulations, thereby violating Section 57.6(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/57.6(a)(2002).

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 30.

COUNT III

FAILURE TO PERFORM INITIAL RESPONSE ACTIONS

1-27. Complainant realleges and incorporates by reference herein, paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count I as paragraphs 1 through 27 of this Count III.

ANSWER: Sun-Times incorporates its answers to paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count I as its answers to paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count III.

28. Section 732.203(a) of the Board Waste Disposal Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 732.202(a), titled, *Early Action*, provides as follows:

- a) Upon confirmation of a release of petroleum from a UST system in accordance with regulations promulgated by the OSFM, the owner or operator, or both, shall perform the following initial response actions within 24 hours after the release:
 - 1) Report the release to IEMA (e.g., by telephone or electronic mail):
 - 2) Take immediate action to prevent any further release of the regulated substance to the environment; and
 - 3) Identify and mitigate fire, explosion and vapor hazards.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 28.

29. Respondents Smithfield and Wooton did not perform initial response actions within 24 hours after confirmation of the release of petroleum from the Site as required by 35 Ill. Adm. Code 732.203(a).

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 29.

30. By failing to perform initial response actions within 24 hours after the confirmed release of petroleum, Respondents Smithfield and Wooton violated Section 732.202(a) of the Board Waste Disposal Regulations, thereby violating Section 57.6(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/57.6(a)(2002).

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 30.

COUNT IV

FAILURE TO PERFORM INITIAL ABATEMENT MEASURES

1-27. Complainant realleges and incorporates by reference herein, paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count I as paragraphs 1 through 27 of this Count IV.

ANSWER: Sun-Times incorporates its answers to paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count I as its answers to paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count IV.

28. Section 732.202(b) of the Board Waste Disposal Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 732.202(b), titled, Early Action, provides as follows:

- (b) Upon confirmation of a release of petroleum from a UST system in accordance with regulations promulgated by the OSFM, the owner or operator shall perform the following initial abatement measures:
 - 1) Remove as much of the petroleum from the UST system as is necessary to prevent further release into the environment;
 - 2) Visually inspect any above ground releases or exposed below ground releases and prevent further migration of the released substance into surrounding soils and groundwater;
 - 3) Continue to monitor and mitigate any additional fire and safety hazards posed by vapors or free product that have migrated from the UST excavation zone and entered into subsurface structures (such as sewers or basements);
 - 4) Remedy hazards posed by contaminated soils that are excavated or exposed as a result of release confirmation, site investigation, abatement or corrective action activities. If these remedies include treatment or disposal of soils, the owner or operator shall comply with 35 Ill. Adm. Code 722, 724, 725, and 807 through 815;
 - 5) Measure for the presence of a release where contamination is most likely to be present at the UST site, unless the presence and source of the release have been confirmed in accordance with regulations promulgated by the OSFM. In selecting sample types, sample locations, and measurement methods, the owner or operator shall

consider the nature of the stored substance, the type of backfill, depth to groundwater and other factors as appropriate for identifying the presence and source of the release; and

- 6) Investigate to determine the possible presence of free product, and begin free product removal as soon as practicable and in accordance with Section 732.203 below.

ANSWER: Sun-Times denies the allegations in paragraph 28.

29. Respondents Smithfield and Wooton did not adequately perform initial abatement measures after confirmation of the release of petroleum products.

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 29.

30. By failing to adequately perform initial abatement measures after confirmation of release, Respondents Smithfield and Wooton violated 35 Ill. Adm. Code 732.202(b) and thereby violated Section 57.6(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/57.6(a)(2002).

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 30.

COUNT V

FAILURE TO ASSEMBLE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITE

1-27. Complainant realleges and incorporates by reference herein, paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count I as paragraphs 1 through 27 of this Count V.

ANSWER: Sun-Times incorporates its answers to paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count I as its answers to paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count V.

28. Section 732.202(d) of the Board Waste Disposal Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 732.202(d), titled, Early Action, provides as follows:

- (d) Owners or operators shall assemble information about the site and the nature of the release, including information gained while confirming the release or completing the initial abatement measures in subsections (a) and (b) above. This information must include, but is not limited to, the following:

- 1) Data on the nature and estimated quantity of release;

- 2) Data from available sources or site investigations concerning the following factories (sic): surrounding populations, water quality, use and approximate locations of wells potentially affected by the release, subsurface soil conditions, locations of subsurface sewers, climatological conditions and land use;
- 3) Results of the site check required at subsection (b)(5) of this Section;
- 4) Results of the free product investigations required at subsection (b)(6) of this Section, to be used by owners or operators to determine whether free product must be recovered under Section 732.203.

ANSWER: Sun-Times denies the allegations in paragraph 28.

29. Respondents Smithfield and Wooton as owners and/or operators of the Site where a release occurred did not assemble information about the Site and the nature of the release after confirmation of the release.

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 29.

30. By failing to assemble information about the Site and the nature of the release after confirmation of the release, Respondents Smithfield and Wooton violated 35 Ill. Adm. Code 732.202(d), thereby violating Section 57.6(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/57.6(a)(2002).

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 30.

COUNT VI

FAILURE TO SUBMIT PHYSICAL SOIL CLASSIFICATION AND GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION PLAN

1-27. Complainant realleges and incorporates by reference herein, paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count I as paragraphs 1 through 27 of this Count VI.

ANSWER: Sun-Times incorporates its answers to paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count I as its answers to paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count VI.

28. Section 57.7(a)(1) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/57.7(a)(1) (2002), titled, Leaking Underground Storage Tanks; Site Investigation, and Corrective Action, provides as follows:

(a) Site Investigation.

(1) For any site investigation activities required by statute or rule, the owner or operator shall submit to the Agency for approval a site investigation plan designed to determine the nature, concentration, direction of movement, rate of movement, and extent of the contamination as well as the significant physical features of the site and surrounding area that may affect contaminant transport and risk to human health and safety and the environment.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 28.

29. Respondents Smithfield and Wooton, as owners and operators of the Site where a release of petroleum products occurred, failed to submit to the Illinois EPA a site investigation plan in accordance with the requirements of Section 57.7(A)(1) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/57.7(a)(1)(2002).

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 29.

30. By failing to submit to the Illinois EPA a site investigation plan in accordance with the requirements of Section 57.7(a)(1), Respondents Smithfield and Wooton violated Section 57.7(a)(1) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/57(a)(1)(2002).

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 30.

COUNT VII

CAUSING OR TENDING TO CAUSE WATER POLLUTION

1-22. Complainant realleges and incorporates by reference herein, paragraphs 1 through 22 of Count I as paragraphs 1 through 22 of this Count VII.

ANSWER: Sun-Times incorporates its answers to paragraphs 1 through 22 of Count I as its answers to paragraphs 1 through 22 of Count VII.

23. Section 12(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12(a)(2002), provides as follows:

No person shall:

- a. Cause or threaten or allow the discharge of a contaminant into the environment in any State so as to cause or tend to cause water pollution in Illinois, either alone or in combination with matter from other sources, or so as to violate regulations or standards adopted by the Pollution Control Board under this Act.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 23.

24. Section 3.315 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/3.315 (2002), defines person as follows:

“PERSON” is any individual, partnership, co-partnership, firm, company, limited liability (sic) company, corporation, association, joint stock company, trust, estate, political subdivision, state agency, or any other legal entity, or their legal representative, agent or assigns.

ANSWER: But for the typographical error, Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 24.

25. Respondents Smithfield and Wooton are each a “person” as that term is defined in Section 3.315 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/3.315 (2002).

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 25.

26. Section 3.165 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/3.165 (2002), defines contaminant as “any solid, liquid or gaseous matter, any odor, or any form of energy, from whatever source.”

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 26.

27. Diesel or gasoline fuel which was released from one or more USTs in waters of the State is a contaminant (sic) as that term is defined by Section 3.165 of the Act, 415 ILCS 53.545 (2002).

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to whether diesel or gasoline fuel was released from one or more USTs into waters of the State.

Sun-Times admits that such a release would constitute a contaminant as defined by Section 3.165 of the Act, 415 ILCS 53.545 (2002).

28. Section 3.545 of the Act, 415 ILCS 53.545 (2002), defines water pollution:

“WATER POLLUTION” is such alternation of the physical, thermal, chemical, biological or radioactive properties of any waters of the State, or such discharge of any contamination into any waters of the State, as will or is likely to create a nuisance or render such waters harmful or detrimental or injurious to public

health, safety or welfare, or to domestic, commercial, industrial agricultural, recreational, or other legitimate uses, or to livestock, wild animals, birds, fish or other aquatic life.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 28.

29. Section 3.550 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/3.550 (2002) defines “Waters of the State” as follows:

“WATERS” means all accumulations of water, surface and underground, natural and artificial, public and private, or parts thereof, which are wholly or partially within, flow through, or border upon this State.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 29.

30. The underground water at the Site which was contaminated by the release of diesel and/or gasoline fuel from one or more of the USTs and/or surface spills is a water of the State as the term “water” is defined by Section 3.550 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/3.550 (2002).

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits that groundwater beneath the Site is a water of the State as the term “water” is defined by Section 3.550 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/3.550 (2002). Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the remaining allegations in paragraph 30.

31. From sometime prior to November 1999, until the date of filing of this Complaint, the groundwater at the site remains contaminated with diesel and/or gasoline fuel released from one or more USTs and/or from surface spill of petroleum products during Sun-Time’s long usage of the Site as a garage and refueling station for its fleet vehicles.

ANSWER: Sun-Times denies the allegations in paragraph 31.

32. Respondents Smithfield and Wooton took no action to remediate the groundwater contamination at the Site;

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 32.

33. Respondents Smithfield and Wooton by their actions and/or inactions caused, threatened, or allowed the discharge of contaminants, into the environment so as to cause or tend to cause water pollution in Illinois.

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 33.

COUNT VIII

FAILURE TO SUBMIT A 45-DAY REPORT

1-27. Complainant realleges and incorporates by reference herein, paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count I as paragraphs 1 through 27 of this Count VIII.

ANSWER: Sun-Times incorporates its answers to paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count I as its answers to paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count VIII.

28. Section 732.202(e) of the Board Waste Disposal Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 732.202(e) titled, *Early Action*, provides as follows:

- (e) Within 45 days after confirmation of a release of petroleum from a UST system in accordance with regulations promulgated by the OSFM, owners or operators shall submit to the Agency the information collected in compliance with subsection (d) above in a manner that demonstrates its applicability and technical adequacy. The information shall be submitted on forms prescribed by the Agency or in a similar format containing the same information.

ANSWER: Sun-Times denies the allegations in paragraph 28.

29. In November 1999, when Smithfield and Wooton removed the active 10,000 gallon diesel UST from the Site, they were the owners and/or operators of the UST.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits that when the active 10,000 gallon diesel UST was removed, at least Smithfield was the owner and/or operator of the UST. Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the remaining allegations in paragraph 29.

30. Respondents Smithfield and Wooton as owners and/or operators of the UST system and/or Site where the release of petroleum products occurred, did not submit a report summarizing information about the Site and nature of the release within 45 days after confirmation of the release.

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 30.

31. By failing to submit a report summarizing information about the Site and nature of the release within 45 days after confirmation of the release, Respondents Smithfield and Wooton violated 35 Ill. Adm. Code 732.202(e) and thereby, also violated Section 57.6(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/57.6(a) (2002).

ANSWER: Sun-Times is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations in paragraph 31.

II. VIOLATIONS BY CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

COUNT IX

CAUSING OR TENDING TO CAUSE WATER POLLUTION

1-22. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference herein, paragraphs 1 through 22 of Count I as paragraphs 1 through 22 of this Count IX.

ANSWER: Sun-Times incorporates its answers to paragraphs 1 through 22 of Count I as its answers to paragraphs 1 through 22 of Count IX.

23. Section 12(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12(a)(2002), provides as follows:

No person shall:

- a. Cause or threaten or allow the discharge of a contaminant into the environment in any State so as to cause or tend to cause water pollution in Illinois, either alone or in combination with matter from other sources, or so as to violate regulations or standards adopted by the Pollution Control Board under this Act.

ANSWER: Sun-times admits the allegations in paragraph 23.

24. Section 3.315 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/3.315 (2002), defines person as follows:

“PERSON” is any individual, partnership, co-partnership, firm, company, limited liability company, corporation, association, joint stock company, trust, estate, political subdivision, state agency, or any other legal entity, or their legal representative, agent or assigns.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 24.

25. Respondent Sun-Times, is a “person” as that term is defined in Section 3.315 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/3.315 (2002).

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 25.

26. Section 3.165 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/3.165 (2002), defines contaminant as “any solid, liquid or gaseous matter, any odor, or any form of energy, from whatever source.”

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 26.

27. Diesel or gasoline fuel which was released from one or more USTs owned and/or operated by Sun-Times in waters of the State is a contaminant as that term is defined by Section 3.165 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/3.165 (2002).

ANSWER: Sun-Times denies that diesel or gasoline fuel was released from one or more USTs owned and operated by the Sun-Times into waters of the State. Sun-Times admits that such a release would constitute a contaminant as defined by Section 3.165 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/3.165 (2002).

28. Section 3.545 of the Act, 415 ILCS 3.545 (2002), defines water pollution:

“WATER POLLUTION” is such alternation of the physical, thermal, chemical, biological or radioactive properties of any waters of the State, or such discharge of any contamination into any waters of the State, as will or is likely to create a nuisance or render such waters harmful or detrimental or injurious to public health, safety or welfare or to domestic, commercial, industrial agricultural, recreational, or other legitimate uses, or to livestock, wild animals, birds, fish or other aquatic life.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 28.

29. Section 3.550 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/3.550 (2002), defines “Waters of the State” as follows:

“WATERS” means all accumulation of water, surface and underground, natural and artificial, public and private, or parts thereof, which are wholly or partially within, flow through, or border upon this State.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 29.

30. The underground water at the Site which was contaminated by the release of diesel and/or gasoline fuel from one or more of the USTs and/or surface spills is a water of the State as the term “water” is defined by Section 3.550 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/3.550 (2002).

ANSWER: Sun-Times denies that diesel or gasoline fuel was released into groundwater at the Site via surface spills during Sun-Times' ownership or operation of the Site or from one or more USTs owned and operated by the Sun-Times. Sun-Times admits that groundwater beneath the Site is a water of the State as the term "water" is defined by Section 3.550 of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/3.550 (2002).

31. From sometime prior to November 1999, until the date of filing of this Complaint, the groundwater at the site remains contaminated with diesel and/or gasoline fuel released from one or more USTs and/or from surface spills of petroleum products during Sun-Time's long usage of the Site as a garage and refueling station for its fleet vehicles.

ANSWER: Sun-Times denies the allegations in paragraph 31.

32. Respondent Sun-Times, by its actions and/or inactions caused, threatened, or allowed the discharge of contaminants, into the environment so as to cause or tend to cause water pollution in Illinois.

ANSWER: Sun-Times denies the allegations in paragraph 32.

COUNT X

CREATING A WATER POLLUTION HAZARD

1-22. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference herein, paragraphs 1 through 22 of Count I as paragraphs 1 through 22 of this Count X.

ANSWER: Sun-Times incorporates its answers to paragraphs 1 through 22 of Count I as its answers to paragraphs 1 through 22 of Count X.

23. Section 12(d) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12(d) (2002), provides:

No person shall:

Deposit any contaminants upon the land in such manner and place so as to create a water pollution hazard.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 23.

24. Respondent Sun-Times, deposited diesel and/or gasoline fuel, contaminants, upon the land in such manner and place so as to create a water pollution hazard.

ANSWER: Sun-Times denies the allegations in paragraph 24.

25. By creating a water pollution hazard, Respondent Sun-Times violated Section 12(d) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/12(d) (2002).

ANSWER: Sun-Times denies the allegations in paragraph 25.

COUNT XI

FAILURE TO SUBMIT A 45 DAY REPORT

1-27. Complainant realleges and incorporates by reference herein, paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count I as paragraphs 1 through 27 of the Count XI.

ANSWER: Sun-Times incorporates its answers to paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count I as its answers to paragraphs 1 through 27 of Count XI.

28. Section 732.202(e) of the Board Waste Disposal Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 732.202(e) titled, *Early Action*, provides as follows:

- (e) Within 45 days after confirmation of release of petroleum from a UST system in accordance with regulations promulgated by the OSFM, owners or operators shall submit to the Agency the information collected in compliance with subsection (d) above in a manner that demonstrates its applicability and technical adequacy. The information shall be submitted on forms prescribed by the Agency or in a similar format containing the same information.

ANSWER: Sun-Times denies the allegations in paragraph 28.

29. In November 1999, when Smithfield and Wooton removed the active 10,000 gallon diesel UST from the Site, Sun-Times was still the registered owner of the UST.

ANSWER: Sun-Times denies the allegations in paragraph 29.

30. At the time of the sale of the Site in 1999, Sun-Times did not notify the OSFM about the transfer of ownership of the USTs.

ANSWER: Sun-Times admits the allegations in paragraph 30.

31. Respondent, Sun-Times, as the owner and/or operator of the UST system and/or Site where the release of petroleum products occurred, did not submit a report summarizing information about the Site and nature of the release within 45 days after confirmation of the release.

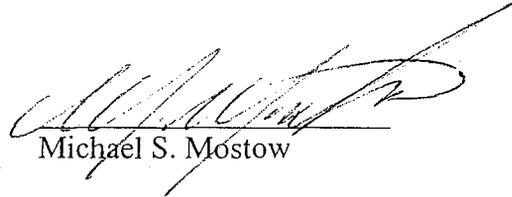
ANSWER: Sun-Times denies the allegations in paragraph 31. Sun-Times was neither the owner nor the operator of the UST system at the time the UST system was removed. Sun-Times, therefore, was not obligated to submit a 45 day/Corrective Action Completion Report with respect to that UST.

32. By failing to submit a report summarizing information about the Site and nature of the release within 45 days after confirmation of the release, Respondent Sun-Times, violated 35 Ill. Adm. Code 732.202(e) and thereby, also violated Section 57.6(a) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/57.6(a) (2002).

ANSWER: Sun-Times denies the allegations in paragraph 32.

WHEREFORE Sun-Times requests that the Board enter an order denying Complainant its requested relief in its entirety, awarding Sun-Times its costs and fees incurred in this matter, and awarding Sun-Times such additional relief as the Board deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,



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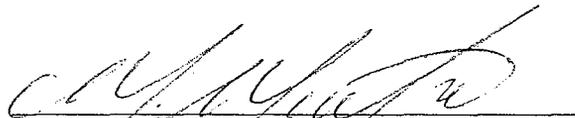
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Michael S. Mostow, attorney for Respondent Chicago Sun-Times, Inc., hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing **Chicago Sun-Times, Inc.'s Answer** was served upon the following parties by U.S. First Class Mail on this 23rd day of July, 2004:

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