

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
April 3, 2008

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	PCB 08-46
)	(Enforcement - Water)
RANCHO AMIGO, LLC, an Illinois limited)	
liability company,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by G.T. Girard):

On February 19, 2008, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People), filed a one-count complaint against Rancho Amigo, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company (Rancho Amigo). The complaint concerns Rancho Amigo's construction of an off-road vehicle riding facility in Pleasant Valley Township, rural Jo Daviess 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 (2006)), the Attorney General and the State's Attorneys may bring actions before the Board to enforce Illinois' environmental requirements on behalf of the People. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31 (2006); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103. In this case, the People allege that Rancho Amigo violated Sections 12(a), (d), and (f) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/12(a), (d), (f), (2006)) and Section 309.102(a) of the Board's water pollution regulations (35 Ill. Adm. Code 309.102(a)). The People allege that Rancho Amigo violated these provisions by threatening the discharge of a contaminant in a manner that would tend to cause water pollution; by depositing a contaminant on the land so as to create a water pollution hazard; and by threatening the discharge of a contaminant into the waters of the State without a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

On February 19, 2008, the People and Rancho Amigo also 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) (2006)). This filing is authorized by Section 31(c)(2) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2006)), 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 *Galena Gazette* on February 27, 2008. 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) (2006); 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 Rancho Amigo'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) (2006)), which bears on the reasonableness of the circumstances surrounding the alleged violations. Rancho Amigo admits the alleged violations. The stipulation also addresses the factors of Section 42(h) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/42(h) (2006)), which may mitigate or aggravate the civil penalty amount. Rancho Amigo agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$5,000. The People and Rancho Amigo 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.

ORDER

1. The Board accepts and incorporates by reference the stipulation and proposed settlement.
2. Rancho Amigo must pay a civil penalty of \$5,000 no later than May 5, 2008, which is the first business day following the 30th day after the date of this order. Rancho Amigo must pay the civil penalty by certified check or money order payable to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, designated to the Illinois Environmental Protection Trust Fund. The case name, case number, and Rancho Amigo's Federal Employer Identification Number must appear on the certified check or money order.
3. Rancho Amigo must submit payment of the civil penalty to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Fiscal Services Section
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

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

Zemeheret Bereket-Ab
Assistant Attorney General
Environmental Bureau
69 W. Washington Street, Suite 1800
Chicago, Illinois 60602

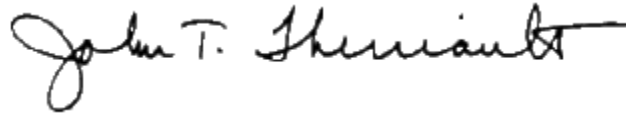
4. Penalties unpaid within the time prescribed will accrue interest under Section 42(g) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/42(g) (2006)) at the rate set forth in Section 1003(a) of the Illinois Income Tax Act (35 ILCS 5/1003(a) (2006)).

5. Rancho Amigo must cease and desist from future violations of the Act and Board regulations that were the subject matter 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) (2006); *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.

I, John Therriault, Assistant Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above opinion and order on April 3, 2008, by a vote of 4-0.



John Therriault, Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board