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# OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan

September 26, 2008

John T. Therriault, Assistant Clerk

Assistant Clerk of the Board Illinois Pollution Control Board James R. Thompson Center, Ste. 11-500 100 West Randolph Chicago, Illinois 60601

# Re: ESG Watts, Inc. v. Illinois EPA PCB No. 06-06

Dear Clerk:

Enclosed for filing please find the original and one copy of a Notice of Filing and Respondent'S Motion to Suspend Decision Deadline Waiver and Request for Hearing and Decision in regard to the above-captioned matter. Please file the originals and return file-stamped copies to me in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration.

Very truly yours,

Thomas Davis, Chief Environmental Bureau 500 South Second Street Springfield, Illinois 62706 (217) 782-9031

TD/pjk Enclosures

## **BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**

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WASTE MANAGEMENT OF ILLINOIS, INC.,

Petitioner,

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ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,

Respondent.

PCB No. 08-101

(Permit Appeal/NPDES)

### NOTICE OF FILING

To: Larry Woodward Corporate Counsel ESG Watts, Inc. 525 17<sup>th</sup> Street PO Box 5410 Rock Island, Illinois 61204-5410

OLEAK'S OFFI SEP 30 2008 STATE OF ILLINOIS Pollution Control Board

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on this date I mailed for filing with the Clerk of the Pollution Control Board of the State of Illinois, RESPONDENT'S MOTION TO SUSPEND DECISION

DEADLINE WAIVER AND REQUEST FOR HEARING AND DECISION, a copy of which is attached

hereto and herewith served upon you.

Respectfully submitted,

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

LISA MADIGAN, Attorney General of the State of Illinois

MATTHEW J. DUNN, Chief Environmental Enforcement/Asbestos Litigation Division

BY:

THOMAS DAVIS, Chief Assistant Attorney General Environmental Bureau

500 South Second Street Springfield, Illinois 62706 217/782-9031 Dated: September 26, 2008

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I did on September 26, 2008, send by First Class Mail, with postage thereon fully prepaid, by depositing in a United States Post Office Box a true and correct copy of the following instruments entitled NOTICE OF FILING and RESPONDENT'S MOTION TO SUSPEND DECISION DEADLINE WAIVER AND REQUEST FOR HEARING AND DECISION

To: Larry Woodward Corporate Counsel ESG Watts, Inc. 525 17<sup>th</sup> Street PO Box 5410 Rock Island, Illinois 61204-5410

Michelle Ryan Illinois EPA/DLC 1021 North Grand Ave. East P.O. Box 19276 Springfield, IL 62794-9276

and the original and ten copies by First Class Mail with postage thereon fully prepaid of the

same foregoing instrument(s):

To: John T. Therriault, Assistant Clerk Illinois Pollution Control Board James R. Thompson Center Suite 11-500 100 West Randolph Chicago, Illinois 60601

A copy was also sent by First Class Mail with postage thereon fully prepaid to:

Carol Webb Hearing Officer Illinois Pollution Control Board 1021 North Grand Avenue East Springfield, IL 62794

THOMAS DAVIS, Chief Assistant Attorney General Environmental Bureau

This filing is submitted on recycled paper.

## **BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD**



The Respondent, ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, by LISA MADIGAN, Attorney General of the State of Illinois, moves pursuant to Sections 101.308(c) and 105.214(a) of the Board's Procedural Rules, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.308(c) and 105.214(a), to suspend the operation of the open waiver of decision deadline filed on October 13, 2006. For the reasons stated below, the Respondent requests that the permit appeal proceed to hearing and a decision rendered thereupon.

1. The Petition for Hearing was filed on July 7, 2005.

2. The Respondent will not attempt to summarize the enforcement history of the Taylor Ridge Landfill, except to cite to the discussions of prior adjudicated violations in the Board's orders in *People of the State of Illinois v. ESG Watts, Inc.*, PCB 96-107 and 01-167. In PCB 96-107, the Board revoked the Petitioner's operating permit and ordered Watts to cease accepting waste at the Taylor Ridge Landfill.

3. When Watts did not immediately cease operations upon revocation of its permit, the Attorney General's Office obtained the entry of an Injunction Order on March 20, 1998, in

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Rock Island County Circuit Court No. 98 CH 20, requiring Watts to cease waste disposal pending appeal. The action was amended to include Watts' failure to comply with the Board's order in PCB 96-107 regarding the corrective and compliance actions, including continuing odor problems. Watts confessed judgment on December 29, 1999, and a Judgment and Injunction Order was entered. Watts was to undertake and complete closure and post-closure care of the landfill as required by its previously approved Closure Plan. Additionally, the Court ordered Watts to monitor and remediate the groundwater, to operate the leachate and gas extraction systems, to perform all necessary work to correct erosion and runoff problems, and to prevent adverse off-site impacts from any surface water discharges from the landfill through the implementation of its storm water management plan. Watts, the Illinois EPA and the Attorney General's Office subsequently entered into discussions regarding the necessary corrective and compliance actions. The parties acknowledged that the resolution of the vertical overfill was necessary prior to the final closure of the landfill; the relocation of approximately 34,000 cubic yards of vertical overfill for disposal elsewhere within the landfill so that no waste remained above a certain elevation would necessitate the removal and replacement of cover material, and the temporary disconnection of the gas/leachate wells, thereby exposing refuse and allowing gas emissions. Watts refused, however, to undertake any immediate or interim action without a permit.

4. In June 2001, the Attorney General's Office filed the complaint in PCB 01-167. The Board therein found that Watts had committed additional environmental violations as those adjudicated by the Court, e.g. exceeding the permit elevation for waste disposal and failing to

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relocate the waste, causing air pollution through the uncontrolled emissions of landfill gas, and causing water pollution through groundwater contamination and offsite runoff of storm water.

5. By then, Watts had filed a permit application with the Illinois EPA in December 2001 for the revision of the Closure Plan and the issuance of a significant modification. In support of its permit application, Watts submitted to the Illinois EPA additional information on four occasions and waivers of the statutory permit deadlines on twenty-five occasions during the next few years. On May 26, 2005, the Illinois EPA issued a permit approving the waste relocation plan, the revised surface water management plan, and the surface water retention pond. The groundwater monitoring plan and other closure plan modifications were not approved.

6. In an attempt to abate the nuisance resulting from the uncontrolled emissions of landfill gas and to enforce the Judgment and Injunction Order, the Attorney General's Office obtained a Contempt Order on August 1, 2006, finding that Watts had failed to operate the landfill gas management system. On January 8, 2007, the Court ruled that Watts had purged itself of contempt by repairing the flare but cautioned that the continuing failure to comply with the other terms and conditions of the Judgment and Injunction Order could lead to further contempt proceedings. Watts argued that it did not have adequate financial resources to relocate the overfilled wastes and perform closure and post-closure activities, and that the overfill should not be moved because such work would not be cost effective and would itself create additional environmental and public health threats.

7. By providing this historical summary, the Respondent acknowledges that it has condoned or at least tolerated an inordinate amount of delay both in the permitting process and in

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the pending permit appeal. The time has come to conduct a hearing on the Petitioner's challenge to the permit.

WHEREFORE, the Illinois EPA respectfully requests that the Board direct the Hearing Officer to commence a hearing in this matter by a date certain regardless of the previously filed open waiver.

Respectfully Submitted,

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

LISA MADIGAN, Attorney General of the State of Illinois,

MATTHEW J. DUNN, Chief Environmental Enforcement/Asbestos Litigation Division

BY:

THOMAS DAVIS, Chief Environmental Bureau Assistant Attorney General

Attorney Reg. No. 3124200 500 South Second Street Springfield, Illinois 62706 217/782-7968 Dated: September 24, 2008

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