

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
December 15, 2011

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)	
PROTECTION AGENCY,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	AC 12-13
)	(IEPA No. 297-11-AC)
RODNEY K. BROWN,)	(Administrative Citation)
)	
Respondent.)	

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by T.A. Holbrook):

On November 10, 2011, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) timely filed an administrative citation against Rodney K. Brown (respondent). *See* 415 ILCS 5/31.1(c) (2010); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(b), 108.202(c). The administrative citation concerns respondent's facility located at the East 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Sec 34, T 16N, R 13W of the 3rd PM, Morgan County. The property is commonly known to the Agency as the "Meradosia/Brown" site and is designated with Site Code No. 1378615002. For the reasons below, the Board accepts respondent's petition to contest the administrative citation.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5/1 *et seq.* (2010)), an administrative citation is an expedited enforcement action brought before the Board seeking civil penalties that are fixed by statute. Administrative citations may be filed only by the Agency or, if the Agency has delegated the authority, by a unit of local government, and only for limited types of alleged violations. *See* 415 ILCS 5/21(o), 21(p), 22.51, 22.51a, 31.1(c), 42(b)(4), 42(b)(4-5), 55(k) (2010); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.

In this case, the Agency alleges that, on September 14, 2011, respondent violated Section 21(p)(1) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/21(p)(1) (2010)) by causing or allowing the open dumping of waste in a manner resulting in litter. The Agency asks the Board to impose on respondent the statutory \$1,500.00 civil penalty for each alleged violation, for a total civil penalty of \$1,500.00

As required, the Agency served the administrative citation on respondent within "60 days after the date of the observed violation." 415 ILCS 5/31.1(b) (2010); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(c), 108.202(b). Any petition to contest the administrative citation was due by December 28, 2011. On December 12, 2011, respondent timely filed a petition. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31.1(d) (2010); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(b), 108.204(b). Respondent alleges that he was in the process of cleanup efforts at the site before being informed by the Agency of potential violations of the Act. Respondent further states that the debris was there prior to their purchase of the site, and that further cleanup efforts at the site are based on the direction of the Agency. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.206.

The Board accepts the petition and directs the hearing officer to proceed expeditiously to hearing. The hearing officer will give the parties at least 21 days written notice of the hearing. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31.1(d)(2) (2010); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.300. By contesting the administrative citation, respondent may have to pay the hearing costs of the Board and the Agency. *See* 415 ILCS 5/42(b)(4-5) (2010); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.500. A schedule of the Board's hearing costs is available from the Clerk of the Board and on the Board's Web site at www.ipcb.state.il.us. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.504.

Respondent may withdraw his petition to contest the administrative citation at any time before the Board enters its final decision. If respondent choose to withdraw his petition, he must do so in writing, unless he does so orally at hearing. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.208. If respondent withdraw his petition after the hearing starts, the Board will require him to pay the hearing costs of the Board and the Agency. *See id.* at 108.500(c).

The Agency has the burden of proof at hearing. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31.1(d)(2) (2010); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.400. If the Board finds that respondent violated Section 21(p)(1) of the Act, the Board will impose civil penalties on him. The civil penalty for violating any provision of Section 21(p), 22.51, 22.51a, or 55(k) is \$1,500 for each violation, except that the penalty amount is \$3,000 for each violation that is the person's second or subsequent adjudicated violation of that provision. *See* 415 ILCS 5/42(b)(4-5) (2010); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.500(a). However, if the Board finds respondent has "shown that the violation resulted from uncontrollable circumstances, the Board shall adopt a final order which makes no finding of violation and which imposes no penalty." 415 ILCS 5/31.1(d)(2) (2010); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 108.500(b).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, John T. Therriault, Assistant Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on December 15, 2011, by a vote of 5-0.



John T. Therriault, Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board