ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD July 26, 2012

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
v.)	PCB 12-48
)	(Enforcement - Water)
PHOENIX CORPORATION OF THE QUAD)	
CITIES, an Illinois corporation,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by C.K. Zalewski):

On September 9, 2011, the Office of the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois (People), filed a four-count complaint against Phoenix Corporation of the Quad Cities (Phoenix). The complaint concerns Phoenix's excavation and grading services on a road construction project at the intersection of Illinois Route 79 and Illinois Route 64/United States Route 52 in Mount Carroll, Carroll 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 (2010)), the Attorney General and the State's Attorneys may bring actions before the Board on behalf of the People to enforce Illinois' environmental requirements. *See* 415 ILCS 5/31 (2010); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 103. In this case, the People allege that Phoenix violated Sections 12(a), (d), and (f) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/12(a), (d), (f) (2010)), and Section 302.203 of the Board's Water Pollution Regulations, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.203, by causing or allowing water pollution by pumping soil, sediment, and sediment-laden storm water into the drainage ditches, storm sewer, and the ravine leading to Carroll Creek which resulted in unnatural sludge and bottom deposits, by creating a water pollution hazard by depositing soil and sediment onto land in an uncontrolled manner so as to allow the soil and sediment to migrate into the storm sewer, water-filled ravine, and Carroll Creek, and by discharging sediment-laden storm water into the storm sewer without first applying for an obtaining a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

On May 24, 2012, the People and Phoenix 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) (2010)). This filing is authorized by Section 31(c)(2) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/31(c)(2) (2010)), 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 *Mt*. *Carroll Mirror Democrat* on June 29, 2012. 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) (2010); 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 Phoenix'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) (2010)), which bears on the reasonableness of the circumstances surrounding the alleged violations. Phoenix neither admits nor denies the alleged violations. The stipulation also addresses the factors of Section 42(h) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/42(h) (2010)), which may mitigate or aggravate the civil penalty amount. Phoenix agrees to pay a civil penalty of \$20,000.00. The People and Phoenix 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. Phoenix Corporation of the Quad Cities (Phoenix) must pay a civil penalty of \$20,000.00 no later than August 27, 2012, which is the first business day following the 30th day after the date of this order. Phoenix must pay the civil penalty by certified check or money order payable to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for deposit into the Environmental Protection Trust Fund. The case name, case number, and Phoenix's federal tax identification number must appear on the face of the certified check or money order.
- 3. Phoenix must submit payment of the civil penalty to:

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

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

Christopher J. Grant Environmental Bureau Illinois Attorney General's Office 69 W. Washington, Suite 1800 Chicago, Illinois 60602

4. Penalties unpaid within the time prescribed will accrue interest under Section 42(g) of the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/42(g) (2010)) at the rate

- set forth in Section 1003(a) of the Illinois Income Tax Act (35 ILCS 5/1003(a) (2010)).
- 5. Phoenix must cease and desist from future violations of the Environmental Protection Act and Board regulations that were the subject 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) (2010); 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 T. Therriault, Assistant Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above opinion and order on July 26, 2012 by a vote of 5-0.

John T. Therriault, Assistant Clerk Illinois Pollution Control Board