

Environmental Violation by Vulcan Construction Materials in Illinois (2003)

Introduction

In 2003, Vulcan Construction Materials faced an environmental enforcement action in Illinois after being accused of air pollution violations related to faulty pollution control equipment. The case was handled by the Illinois Attorney General and resulted in a settlement requiring the company to pay a \$120,000 penalty. The enforcement action addressed alleged violations involving emissions from the company's operations and highlighted the importance of maintaining effective pollution control systems at industrial facilities.

Background of the Company and Facility

Vulcan Construction Materials is part of Vulcan Materials Company, a major supplier of construction materials such as aggregates, asphalt, and related products. Industrial operations involving the production and processing of construction materials are subject to environmental regulations because they can generate air emissions that may affect surrounding communities and air quality.

The 2003 enforcement case involved a Vulcan Construction Materials facility in Illinois. The facility was identified as being located in McCook, Illinois, and the violation was classified as an environment-related offense under state enforcement authority.

Nature of the Environmental Violation

The violation involved alleged air pollution problems caused by faulty pollution control equipment on the facility's lime kilns. Pollution control equipment is designed to reduce the amount of pollutants released into the atmosphere during industrial processes. When this equipment does not function properly, facilities may exceed permitted emission limits or fail to meet requirements established under environmental laws.

According to enforcement records, Vulcan Construction Materials agreed to pay \$120,000 to settle allegations related to these air pollution violations. The case was categorized as an environmental violation and was handled as a state-level civil agency action.

Enforcement by the Illinois Attorney General

The Illinois Attorney General served as the enforcement agency in the case. State attorneys general often participate in environmental enforcement actions to ensure that companies comply with state environmental laws and to protect public health and natural resources.

The settlement required Vulcan Construction Materials to pay a \$120,000 penalty. The payment represented the financial consequence of the alleged environmental violations and served as an enforcement measure intended to encourage compliance with pollution control requirements.

Environmental Significance

Air pollution regulations are designed to limit emissions from industrial sources and reduce risks to public health and the environment. Facilities that operate equipment such as lime kilns must maintain proper pollution controls to ensure that emissions remain within legally allowed limits.

This case demonstrates the role of environmental enforcement agencies in holding industrial operators responsible when pollution control systems fail. Penalties can encourage companies to repair equipment, improve operational practices, and prevent future violations.

Conclusion

The 2003 environmental enforcement case involving Vulcan Construction Materials in Illinois resulted in a \$120,000 settlement with the Illinois Attorney General. The company was cited for alleged air pollution violations caused by faulty pollution control equipment on lime kilns. The case illustrates the importance of maintaining reliable pollution controls and complying with environmental regulations designed to protect air quality and surrounding communities.