

March 24, 2011
For further information contact Andy Gallagher
(304) 425-4187 or andy@wvhi.org

Seven companies ordered to stop operating; one fined \$1,000

CHARLESTON – State regulators ordered seven companies Thursday to halt operations in West Virginia and fined one \$1,000 for a second offense.

The West Virginia Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Board also handled a handful of other disciplinary matters and issued three licenses during its meeting.

Six of the seven companies issued cease and desist orders were reprimanded for first-time violations that involved selling manufactured homes or setting them up without first obtaining the proper state licenses.

But a company known as Veronica May of Roane County was fined \$1,000 for a second violation for selling homes without a license, according to Mitch Woodrum, director of the manufactured housing section of the Division of Labor.

The same company was fined \$1,000 in 2008 for the same violation and has refused to pay that fine, Woodrum said. The company contends the board has no authority over it, he said.

Board member Thomas Belasco II of Bridgeport asked the panel to send the complaint against the company to magistrate court to force compliance, which the State Board agreed to do.

The State Board approved a license for a Freedom Homes location in Roanoke, VA, to sell homes into West Virginia. It also approved contractor licenses for Combs Masonry & Stucco LLC of Charleston and All-In-One Construction, Inc., of Mount Nebo, Nicholas County.

The State Board issued a \$200 fine against Ray's Mobile Home Services, but the company has gone out of business, and did not pay \$2,000 in previous fines levied against it.

Twenty companies were fined a total of \$1,525 for failing to file the proper quarterly reports on time with state regulators.

A notice of appeal sought by a retailer in Boone County was dismissed when the retailer failed to appear at a hearing examiner hearing. At issue was a violation issued by the State Board because the company allegedly had set a home above a septic tank.

It let stand a \$200 fine in another cease and desist case when the company failed to appear at a separate hearing examiner hearing.

Woodrum said an improved effort would be made by the DOL to provide educational materials for those interested in taking the manufactured home installation examination. Some of the study books are outdated and difficult to obtain. He also reported that the recovery fund – started by the industry to pay for homes not completed when a company went out of business – totals \$1.53 million.

The next board meeting was set for July 14.