

Government Regulation Case Study

Challenges involving government regulations are often the result of ineffective communication or misperceptions. Although specific situations vary, Rinehart & Rishel can often help businesses resolve problems with government entities by facilitating clear communication and improving perception on the part of government representatives. Here are some examples:

1. A company that owned a very profitable gas station in a north Central Ohio township sought to expand the facility to take advantage of the location's business opportunity. Before they were able to expand the business, a nearby city annexed the territory that included the station. The city's development plan called for park space on the land the company planned to use for expansion, and key members of the city government voiced strong opposition to the expansion plans.

Solution – The biggest obstacle was the city's perception of a gas station as a blight on the area, which fueled the desire for park space. Rinehart & Rishel helped the company develop a creative solution that included redesigning the facility, communicating their goals to the proper government officials and assembling all the required legal documents. For the new design, the company selected the same architects who designed the city's government center. The proposed design drew on the architectural concepts of the surrounding area, so the facility blended perfectly with neighboring structures. The result was an expanded, profitable facility for the company and an aesthetically pleasing building that exceeded city officials' expectations.

2. A major employer in the State of Ohio with over 200 locations and 25,000 employees was in jeopardy of losing its self-insured status with the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation due to an alleged failure to comply with the bureau's rules and regulations for self-insured entities. The company faced potential annual losses of \$6 million if it was stripped of its self-insured status.

Solution – This situation resulted from a classic failure of communication between a private entity and a public institution. Rinehart & Rishel facilitated negotiations with the Bureau of Workers' Compensation Administrator, the Chief Legal Counsel, and the Director of the Self Insured Division to work out a solution that met the company's needs while ensuring compliance with the rules and regulations. As a result, the company was able to maintain its self-insured status.

3. The Ohio Department of Transportation denied a permit application from a builder and marketer of large sign structures for rent by advertisers. The department alleged that the company's proposed structure violated the rules and regulations for sign spacing. A review of the rules and regulations showed that the department's interpretation could be challenged because it did not seem to meet the plain language requirement of the statutes.

Solution – Because the company and the department were unable to reach a resolution, Rinehart & Rishel filed an appeal with the department, which scheduled a hearing. At the

hearing, the company had the opportunity to question the unique interpretation of the rules and regulations by examining witnesses and offering their own testimony. A ruling has not been issued, but the company was able to respond effectively with the firm's services.

Results will vary depending on the specific factual and legal circumstances of each client.