

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

UNITED FIRE & CASUALTY COMPANY,)
 an Iowa Stock Insurance Company,)
)
 Plaintiff,)
)
 v.)
)
 ROXANA LANDFILL, INC., THIEMS,)
 CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.,)
 ALLIED WASTE TRANSPORTATION,)
 INC., and JAMES C. FOWLER,)
)
 Defendants.)

Case No. 11-cv-470-JPG

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on its own initiative for purposes of case management. Specifically, the Court questions whether it has jurisdiction over this matter.

Federal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction. They may exercise jurisdiction only over matters authorized by the Constitution and by statute. *Turner/Ozanne v. Hyman/Power*, 111 F.3d 1312, 1316 (7th Cir. 1997). Moreover, federal courts must police the boundaries of their own jurisdiction. Even absent an objection by a party challenging jurisdiction, they are “obliged to inquire *sua sponte* whenever a doubt arises as to the existence of federal jurisdiction.” *Tylka v. Gerber Prods. Co.*, 211 F.3d 445, 448-49 (7th Cir. 2000) (quoting *Mt. Healthy City Bd. of Educ. v. Doyle*, 429 U.S. 274, 278 (1977)). As such, this Court conducts a rigorous initial review of complaints to ensure that jurisdiction has been properly pled.

In its Complaint (Doc. 2), Plaintiff United Fire and Casualty Company has invoked but not properly pled diversity of citizenship as a basis for federal jurisdiction. Indeed, federal courts have jurisdiction over a civil action between *citizens* of different states. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1332 (2006). Here, United Fire & Casualty Company alleged the residence and domicile of

Defendant Fowler but failed to allege the *citizenship* of Fowler.

Accordingly, the Court **ORDERS** the United Fire & Casualty Company to correct this and *any other* jurisdictional defects by **June 17, 2011**. *See Tylka*, 211 F.3d at 448 (“[I]t is not the court’s obligation to lead counsel through a jurisdictional paint-by-numbers scheme.”).

Should it fail to do so, the Court will dismiss this matter for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: June 7, 2011

s/ J. Phil Gilbert
J. PHIL GILBERT
DISTRICT JUDGE