

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
May 29, 1984

CITY OF MATTOON,)
)
 Petitioner,)
)
 v.) PCB 84-63
)
 ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)
 PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
 Respondent.)

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by W. J. Nega):

This provisional variance request comes before the Board upon a May 29, 1984 Recommendation of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency). The Agency recommends that the Board grant the City of Mattoon (Mattoon) a provisional variance from 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.120(c) and 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.141(a) to allow higher levels of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and suspended solids (SS) in the effluent discharged from the Petitioner's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) during the time that its tertiary sand filters are removed from service for upgrading and rehabilitation. The Board previously granted Mattoon a 45-day provisional variance in City of Mattoon v. IEPA, PCB 84-47 (April 19, 1984) and the Petitioner has indicated that it needs additional time to allow the completion of the necessary rehabilitation work.

The Petitioner owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility which has a design average flow of 4.5 million gallons per day (MGD). Mattoon's WWTP has treatment units which include pumping, primary settling, grit removal, activated sludge process, secondary settling, chlorination, treated storm overflow, sludge digestion and drying, and tertiary sand filters. (Rec. 1).

Mattoon has stated that the work which still needs to be done includes: (1) completion of the new low pressure air diffusion system; (2) replacement of the underdrain mesh; (3) placement of new media; and (4) installation of the new chemical cleaning system. (Rec. 1). Because some of the butterfly valves and piping are at, or below, water level and since the clear well needs to be drained in order to clean the well, the only feasible method of finishing this necessary work is to keep the filters out of service during this interim period. (Rec. 1). Mattoon estimates that construction work on the sand filters will be finished by June 21, 1984 and that the initial start-up and operation of the new control system will be completed by June 30, 1984. (Rec. 1).

Mattoon has experienced various problems with its sand filters since at least October, 1983. (Rec. 2). Since that time, the Petitioner has reported the following levels for BOD and SS on its discharge monitoring reports to the agency:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Flow (MGD)</u>	<u>BOD</u>		<u>SS</u>	
		<u>Avg. (mg/l)</u>	<u>Max.(mg/l)</u>	<u>Avg. (mg/l)</u>	<u>Max. (mg/l)</u>
October, 1983	5.4	10	14	17	21
November, 1983	7.3	9	11	17	19
December, 1983	8.2	8	9	15	22
January, 1984	5.3	10	11	15	18
February, 1984	7.4	9	12	13	16
March, 1984	9.4	8	10	14	21
April 1-18, 1984	8.6	8	11	13	22
*April 19-30, 1984	8.6	7	14	18	25
Average	7.4	8.6	11.5	15.3	20.5

*BOD and SS concentrations reported for the portion of April when the tertiary sand filters were bypassed.

The Petitioner has indicated that it does not expect any adverse environmental impact to be caused by a small increase in BOD and SS levels in the effluent during the time period of the requested provisional variance because of the high stream flows during this part of the year. Mattoon intends to operate all portions of its WWTP except the tertiary sand filters during the period when the filters are being upgraded. (Rec. 2).

The Agency believes that the provisional variance is appropriate because it will allow the Petitioner an opportunity to correct the problems previously experienced with the sand filters and will have a minimal environmental impact on the receiving stream due to the high stream flows and the quality of the effluent discharged from Mattoon's WWTP. (Rec. 2). Accordingly, the Agency believes that the denial of the provisional variance would impose an arbitrary or unreasonable hardship on the City of Mattoon.

Thus, the Agency recommends that the Board grant the City of Mattoon a provisional variance from Sections 304.120(c) and 304.141(a) to begin on June 3, 1984, subject to certain conditions. Pursuant to Section 35(b) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, the Board hereby grants the provisional variance as recommended.

ORDER

The City of Mattoon is hereby granted a provisional variance from 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.120(c) and 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.141(a) to begin on June 3, 1984 to allow higher levels of BOD and SS in

the effluent discharged from the Petitioner's wastewater treatment plant during the time that its tertiary sand filters are removed from service for upgrading and rehabilitation to allow completion of the work begun on its filters under the previous provisional variance in PCB 84-47, subject to the following conditions:

1. This variance shall continue until June 30, 1984 or until such time as all the sand filter cells are returned to service and the initial start-up and operation of the new control system is complete, whichever occurs first, but in no event shall this variance exceed the statutorily allowed time-period for such a provisional variance.

2. The Petitioner shall meet the effluent limitations as given below:

	<u>30 day avg.</u>	<u>daily max.</u>
BOD	20 mg/l	30 mg/l
SS	25 mg/l	37 mg/l

The frequency of sampling and testing shall remain as in NPDES Permit #IL0029831.

3. Work on the sand filters shall continue as expeditiously as possible so that the sand filters will be returned to service as soon as possible. Individual filter cells shall be returned to service as soon as the work on each one is completed.

4. The Petitioner shall notify Roger Cruse of the Agency's Compliance Assurance Section by telephone at 217/782-9720 of any violations of the above effluent limits. Such notification shall be followed by written notification sent to Robert Cruse at the address indicated below.

5. The Petitioner shall notify Roger Cruse by telephone at 217/782-9720 when the work on the sand filters is completed and when the sand filters are placed back in service. Such notification(s) shall be followed by written notification(s) sent to Roger Cruse at the address indicated below.

6. During the period of this variance, the Petitioner shall operate and maintain the wastewater treatment facility (with the exception of the tertiary sand filters) so as to achieve the best quality of effluent possible.

7. Within 10 days of the date of the Board's Order, the City of Mattoon shall execute a Certificate of Acceptance and Agreement which shall be sent to: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Water Pollution Control, Compliance

Assurance Section, 2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, Illinois 62706. This certification shall have the following form:

CERTIFICATION

I, (We), _____ having read the Order of the Illinois Pollution Control Board in PCB 84-63 dated May 29, 1984, understand and accept the said Order, realizing that such acceptance renders all terms and conditions thereto binding and enforceable.

Petitioner

By: Authorized Agent

Title

Date

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify that the above Opinion and Order was adopted on the 29th day of May, 1984 by a vote of 6-0.

Christan L. Moffett
Christan L. Moffett, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board