

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
May 23, 1972

CRANE PACKING COMPANY)	
(MORTON GROVE PLANT))	
)	
v.)	PCB 72-131
)	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)	
CRANE PACKING COMPANY)	
(CRYSTAL LAKE PLANT))	
)	
v.)	PCB 72-132
)	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)	

OPINION OF THE BOARD (by Mr. Kissel):

Crane Packing Company ("Crane") manufactures various sealing devices at its facilities in Morton Grove and Crystal Lake. The manufacture of such sealing devices involves the extensive use of asbestos. Crane seeks a variance until October 31, 1972, from Rules 202, 501, 502 and 504 of the Board's recently adopted Asbestos Emission Regulations, R 71-16. The compliance date under the Regulations for Crane's operation is June 30, 1972. Crane seeks the delay in order to install a fabric dust collector at each of the plants.

Upon receipt of the variance petitions, the Board ordered the Agency to file its recommendation within twenty-one days and scheduled hearings on both petitions, pending receipt of the Agency's recommendation and any public comments. No public comment was received; the Agency recommended that the petition be granted subject to certain conditions; Crane indicated its willingness to abide by the conditions which the Agency sought to impose.

Crane's Morton Grove plant produces mechanical packings used in the manufacture of various pumps, compressors, valves and fittings. The plant employs approximately 100 people and sales exceed \$4,000,000 annually. Eighty per cent of the packings manufactured at Morton Grove contain asbestos, either in fiber, float, or yarn form. Crane uses over 8,100 pounds of asbestos per week at this plant. Use is confined to three areas of the plant: (1) the hammermill room; (2) the mixing-dipping room; and (3) the braiding-extruding-pressing room. In the hammermill room, asbestos fiber is broken down into

separate fibers; these are then blown through a duct into a cyclone collector on the factory roof for further fluffing. The bulk of the fibers settle to the bottom of the collector and fall into a sealed container. Excess air from the collector is discharged through a filter screen into the ambient air. The hammermill is operated once weekly for 3 to 5 hours. Should the need arise, it may be operated more often, but generally for a shorter period of time. The hammermill operation presently results in the visible emission of asbestos fibers from the collector, most likely in excess of the two fibers per cubic centimeter of air in the Illinois standard. Crane is now installing a different fiber screen in the collector in order to reduce or eliminate emissions in violation of Rule 501. Crane is also investigating the feasibility of abandoning the hammermill operation. The Agency on-site investigation on April 12, 1972 disclosed that a Littleford Brothers mixer, intended to perform the functions of the hammermill, had been delivered, but not installed.

The mixing-dipping room contains several mixing machines and deep vats. The mixing process forms a malleable solid material capable of being further treated in the braiding room. Any asbestos fibers emitted in the mixing process are drawn into a duct attached to the machine and thence to another cyclone collector on the roof. About 3,100 pounds of asbestos material is processed each week through the mixing machines. There are no visible emissions from this second cyclone collector, though Crane is concerned that its emissions may exceed the numerical Illinois standard.

In the braiding room, asbestos yarn is braided with any of several other materials. Asbestos is emitted from the braiding operation and is directed to a third cyclone collector on the roof. About 5,000 pounds of asbestos material is processed through the braiding operation each week. Though no visible emissions emanate from this collector, Crane is concerned that these emissions too may violate the numerical standard.

On March 30, 1972, Crane placed an order for a fabric dust collector which is capable of filtering out particles in excess of two microns in size. The control system will also contain a new series of ducts which will transmit the air back into the filtering unit, rather than venting to the ambient air as at present. Air from the mixing-dipping and braiding room will similarly be vented to the new collector, with the present collectors being abandoned. Cost of the installation is about \$22,000. Crane asks that its variance continue until October 31, 1972; delivery of the new equipment will take approximately 12 to 16 weeks with installation consuming another 4 to 6 weeks. On that schedule, installation should be completed in September, 1972. Crane indicates that it will then need a period of time in which to accomplish de-bugging operations.

For the Morton Grove plant, the Agency recommended that the variance be granted to August 17, 1972 subject to certain conditions, including submission of a monthly progress report, conducting a stack test for emissions from the fabric dust collector, obtaining the necessary permit from the Agency, and the posting of a performance bond in an appropriate amount to insure compliance.

Crane's Crystal Lake plant produces molded rings ("wasters") for use in seals in automatic pumps. This plant employs about 42 people and has a yearly sales volume in excess of \$4,000,000. The washers include asbestos, in the form of asbestos floats, as a component material. About 2,500 pounds of such floats are used each week. The manufacturing process occurs as follows: the various raw materials, including asbestos and resin, are mixed in a dry form; this mixture is run through heated rollers so as to form a hard sheet; the sheets are then crushed into granulate form; the granulates are turned into a powder which is formed, through pressing, into small pellets. These mixing, milling and granulating processes may produce some emissions into the atmosphere of the enclosed room where the operations occur. The air from the room is drawn through a series of ducts which are connected to a wet scrubber. After passing through the scrubber, the air is vented to the atmosphere. Though no visible emissions emanate from the vent, Crane is concerned that its asbestos fibers may violate the State's numerical standard of two fibers per cubic centimeter of air.

Crane has ordered an installation similar to that proposed at the Morton Grove plant for Crystal Lake and contemplates a similar construction schedule. Cost of the installation approximates \$26,000. The Agency has recommended that the variance be granted upon the same conditions as it asks imposed on the Morton Grove operation. In a letter to the Board, Crane has indicated its acceptance of such conditions.

To deny this variance would be to impose several significant hardships upon a petitioner who has acted in good faith. Soon after the passage of the Asbestos Regulations, Crane sought means to bring its operations into compliance with the June 30, 1972 deadline for manufacturing processes. It has already entered a purchase order for a new fabric dust collector which it anticipates will bring it into compliance with the Board's standards. New duct work will also be necessary to assure the efficiency of the collector, as well as provide a means for gas sampling as the regulations require (Rule 502).

The Morton Grove and Crystal Lake operations employ over 140 people and provide a variety of sealant products to various U.S. industries. The variance which Crane seeks is for a short period of time and is the first the Board has received regarding the new rules governing the manufacture of asbestos-containing products. Agency inspection of Crane's operations indicated a good housekeeping and a basically clean operation.

The Agency has recommended that the variance only extend to August 17, 1972. Crane indicates that it will need until October 31, 1972 to complete de-bugging, even though installation will be completed, at the latest, in September. Crane's request for this short period shall be granted. For the period of the variance, however, Crane shall not exceed its normal operating conditions. Crane shall post a performance bond or such similar security in the amount of \$48,000, which is the sum of the pollution improvements which Crane intends to install under this variance.

The variance is, therefore, granted subject to the conditions as set forth in the order issued May 17, 1972.

I, Christan Moffett, Clerk of the Pollution Control Board, certify that the above Opinion was adopted on this 23RD of May, 1972, by a vote of 4-0.

Christan Moffett