

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
January 11, 1995

MICHAEL OIL COMPANY,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	PCB 95-31
)	(Provisional Variance)
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)	
PROTECTION AGENCY,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by C. A. Manning):

Pursuant to Section 35(b) of the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5/35(b)), Michael Oil Company has requested that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) recommend that the Board grant a provisional variance to allow Michael Oil Company's gasoline dispensing operation to continue operating even though it did not install operational vapor recovery equipment by November 1, 1994. This provisional variance is being requested because petitioners contractor was unable to perform the installation at the facility before the compliance deadline. This is because it is awaiting approval of a corrective action plan for a soil remediation project to be performed in conjunction with the vapor recovery equipment installation. This request for a provisional variance and the Notification of Recommendation was filed with the Board by the Agency on Tuesday, January 10, 1995. Pursuant to Section 35(b) of the Act, the Board must issue the variance within two (2) days of this filing.

Specifically, the Agency recommends that we grant Michael Oil Company a forty-five (45)-day provisional variance for its facility located at 221 Ash Street, New Lenox, Will County, Illinois in the Chicago metropolitan statistical area from the Stage II vapor recovery requirements, as set forth in 35 Ill. Adm. Code 218.586, for the period beginning December 20, 1994, and continuing for forty-five (45)-days or until corrective action can be performed and the required vapor recovery equipment is installed, whichever comes first.

This recommendation is essentially that the Board extend a previously-granted provisional variance that expired December 19, 1994. The docket number of the previous provisional variance was PCB 94-339, granted on December 1, 1994.

Upon receipt of the request, the Agency issued its recommendation, notifying the Board that the failure to grant the requested forty-five (45)-day provisional variance would impose an arbitrary or unreasonable hardship on the petitioner.

Provisional variances are by their very nature temporary. The responsibilities of the Agency and the Board in these short-term provisional variances are different from the responsibilities in standard variances. (See 415 ILCS 5/35(b) & 36(c)). In provisional variances it is the responsibility of the Agency to make the technical determinations and finding of arbitrary or unreasonable hardship. The Board's responsibility is to adopt a formal order, to assure the formal maintenance of the record, to assure the enforceability of the variance, and to provide notification of the action by a press release.

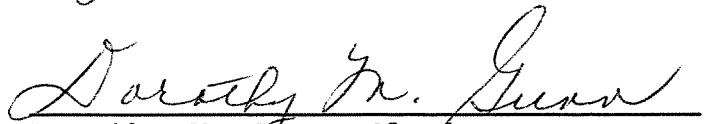
Having received the Agency recommendation notifying the Board that a denial of the requested relief would impose an arbitrary or unreasonable hardship, the Board hereby grants the petitioner a provisional variance from 35 Ill. Adm. Code 218.586, subject to the following conditions:

1. The term of this provisional variance shall commence on December 20, 1994, and continue for forty-five (45)-days or until corrective action can be performed and the required vapor recovery equipment is installed, whichever comes first.
2. The petitioner shall notify the Agency upon installation of the Stage II gasoline vapor recovery equipment, by sending notification addressed as follows:

Mr. Terry Sweitzer, P.E.
 Manager, Air Monitoring Section
 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
 Division of Air Pollution Control
 P.O. Box 19276
 Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, do hereby certify that the above order was adopted on the 11th day of January, 1995, by a vote of 6-0.


 Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk
 Illinois Pollution Control Board