

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
November 3, 1994

MOBIL OIL CORPORATION,)
)
 Petitioner,)
)
 v.) PCB 94-318
) (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)), Mobil Oil Corporation (Mobil) has requested that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) recommend that the Board grant a provisional variance to allow Mobil's gasoline dispensing operations (service stations) to continue operating even though it will not install operational vapor recovery equipment by November 1, 1994. This provisional variance is being requested because Petitioner's contractor is unable to complete the installation of Stage II gasoline vapor recovery systems by the November 1, 1994, deadline. This request for a provisional variance and the Notification of Recommendation was filed with the Board by the Agency on Tuesday, November 1, 1994. 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 Mobil a forty-five (45)-day provisional variance for its two facilities located at the Lincoln Oasis on the Tri-State Tollway, in Cook 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 November 1, 1994, and continuing for forty-five (45)-days or until the required vapor recovery equipment can be installed at the two facilities, whichever comes first.

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.

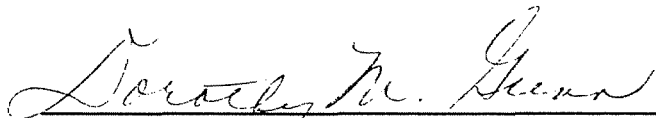
Having received the Agency recommendation notifying the Board that a denial of the requested relief would impose an arbitrary or unreasonable hardship, the Board hereby grants the petitioner a provisional variance from 35 Ill. Adm. Code 218.586, subject to the following conditions:

1. The term of this provisional variance shall commence on November 1, 1994, and continue for forty-five (45)-days or until the required vapor recovery equipment can be installed at the two facilities, 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 3rd day of November, 1994, by a vote of 6-0.



Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board