

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
November 6, 1986

CITY OF JOLIET)
)
) Petitioner,)
)
) v.) PCB 86-121
)
) ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)
) PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
) RESPONDENT.)

DISSENTING OPINION (by J. D. Dumelle):

The majority opinion notes that 1.12 "excess" cancer deaths will occur in Joliet in the next 8 years using the original U.S. EPA model (p. 5).

This shows that radium in drinking water is a short term danger to health. That is what my dissent is based upon.

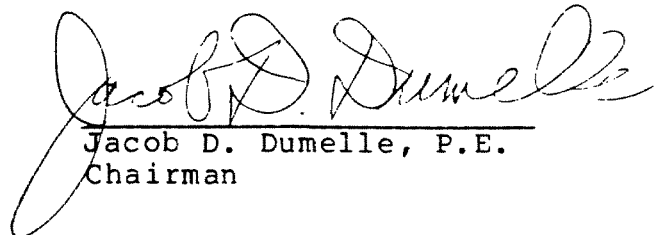
I agree with the majority that this variance only concerns new users on newly extended water lines (p. 6). But the cancer risk is present in the short-term and not after a "lifetime". Radium is a carcinogen. Carcinogens have no threshold.

The variance from restricted status could have been granted just to non-residential uses such as shopping centers and industries. Here, people are only present part of the day unlike in residences where the children and the elderly are present and exposed to the high-radium water all of the time.

This variance may be moot. The transcript of the October 15, 1986 hearing states "We can't supply a volume of water sufficient to satisfy maximum day . . ." (R.110). If Joliet cannot satisfy maximum day demand then perhaps a new restricted status will take effect.

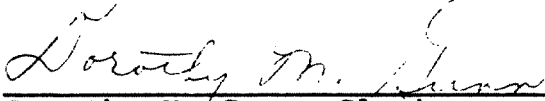
Technology seems to be developing to use resins as a filter medium to capture the radium. If the pilot plant at Yorkville proves successful, perhaps that technique can be applied quickly in Joliet.

How much is a life worth? Is that the question?



Jacob D. Dumelle, P.E.
Chairman

I, Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify that the above Dissenting Opinion was filed on the 12th day of November 1986.



Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board