

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
December 15, 1983

CITY OF WOOD RIVER,)
)
 Petitioner,)
)
 v.) PCB 83-232
)
 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 December 15, 1983 Recommendation of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency). The Agency recommends that a 3-hour provisional variance be granted to the City of Wood River (Wood River) from 35 Ill. Adm. Code 306.305 to allow by-passing of all flows directly into the Mississippi River from its wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) so that Illinois Power Company can install an automatic transfer switch at the Petitioner's facility. Wood River previously was granted a 5-day provisional variance by the Board on July 26, 1983 in PCB 83-98 to allow the sluice gates in the gatewell structure of a 24-inch effluent pipe to be replaced.

As indicated in PCB 83-98, the city is currently participating in the Construction Grants Program to upgrade and enlarge its wastewater treatment facilities. Because "the wiring of the transfer switch is one of the final items necessary for the completion of the Phase I contract", the Petitioner's engineering consultants have stated that:

"The facility is presently under Phase I construction, part of which involves adding a second power source to the main pump station to provide power should the main supply be interrupted. This is accomplished by an automatic transfer switch. This switch is supplied with independent power sources provided by Illinois Power. The power company has indicated that the work required to wire the two sources will take three hours during which time all power to the main pumps will be terminated for safety reasons. Since the storage capacity of the wet well and 84" supply sewer is approximately one hour at average flow (1 MGD), some bypassing would occur." (See: Attachment A: Letter to Agency dated December 9, 1983 from Sheppard, Morgan & Schwaab, Inc.).

To provide the Petitioner with an alternate power source, it is anticipated that work on the installation of the automatic transfer switch will be done on Friday, December 16, 1983 and take approximately 3 hours to complete. Because Wood River's wet well and the interceptor sewer have about a 1 hour holding capacity, it is estimated that bypassing could occur for 2 hours. (Rec. 4).

During this 2-hour period of bypassing, it is expected that untreated wastewater will be discharged into the Mississippi River at levels similar to the influent concentrations reported on the city's recent discharge monitoring reports. (Rec. 3). Using the average maximum BOD concentration of 251 mg/l and average total suspended solids (TSS) concentration of 81 mg/l and an average flow of 0.93 MGD, the Agency has calculated that 177 pounds of BOD and 57.5 pounds of TSS may be discharged during this 2-hour period. (Rec. 3).

The Agency has noted that "the only alternative to the requested bypass would be to install a portable pump at the lift station, lay about 0.75 miles of temporary pipe on the ground and pump from the wet well to the plant". (Rec. 4). Because of the distance involved, the blocking of several driveways, and the expense of such an alternate project, the Agency has stated that this alternative "is considered infeasible". (Rec. 4).

The Agency has indicated that, although bypassing will probably occur at a time when the Mississippi River is at a relatively low level, there is no reasonable alternative to bypassing and denial of the provisional variance would merely serve to contribute additional expenses and unnecessary delay to the construction of a needed improvement. (Rec. 4).

The Agency has concluded that compliance on a short-term basis with the provisions of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 306.305 would impose an arbitrary or unreasonable hardship. Therefore, the Agency recommends that the Board grant the City of Wood River a provisional variance from Section 306.305, 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 Wood River is hereby granted a provisional variance from 35 Ill. Adm. Code 306.305 for a 3-hour period to allow bypassing of all flows directly into the Mississippi River from its wastewater treatment plant so that the Illinois Power Company can install an automatic transfer switch at the Petitioner's facility, subject to the following conditions:

1. Wood River shall notify Robert E. Broms, P.E., Manager, Compliance Assurance Section, Division of Water Pollution Control at 217/782-9720, of the following:

a.) On the day on which the work on the automatic transfer switch is to begin, the time at which the work will begin.

b.) After the work is completed, the City will again notify the Agency that it has been completed.

2. Wood River shall take one grab sample of any bypassed flows and analyze that sample for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS).

3. Wood River shall report in writing within seven (7) days after completion of the work on the automatic transfer switch on the date and time of bypassing and the results of the laboratory analyses. The report shall be submitted to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Water Pollution Control, Compliance Assurance Section, 2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, Illinois 62706

4. Within 10 days of the date of the Board's Order, Wood River 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 83-232 dated December 15, 1983, understand and accept said Order, realizing that such acceptance renders all terms and conditions thereto binding and enforceable.

Petitioner

By: Authorized Agent

Title

Date

Chairman Dumelle concurred.

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 15th day of December, 1983 by a vote of 7-0.



Christan L. Moffett, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board