

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
December 4, 1980

CENTRAL ILLINOIS PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY,)
(Meredosia Power Station),)
)
Petitioner,)
)
v.) PCB 80-187
)
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
Respondent.)

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by D. Satchell):

This matter comes before the Board upon a variance petition filed October 10, 1980 by Central Illinois Public Service Company (CIPS). The petition requests for the Meredosia Power Station an extension of a variance previously granted from the effluent standards for copper (total), iron (total) and iron (dissolved) of Rule 408(a) of Chapter 3: Water Pollution for discharges of boiler chemical cleaning rinse water into the ash pond. On November 12, 1980 the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) recommended that the variance be granted with conditions. No hearing was held and no public comment has been received.

The Board has previously granted a variance from the copper and iron effluent standards for cleaning rinse water from the Meredosia Power Station (PCB 80-25, Opinion and Order, 38 PCB 49, April 3, 1980; 38 PCB 279, May 15, 1980). The record and Opinion and Orders are incorporated into this proceeding by reference. That variance expired September 13, 1980, by which time CIPS had expected to complete its boiler cleaning. CIPS was unable to carry out cleaning of boiler number 6 (Unit 4) during the scheduled period, but now expects to do so by December 31, 1980.

CIPS proposes to clean its boiler tubes by filling them with EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid), a chelating agent. CIPS will haul by tanker truck the spent EDTA solution, containing most of the metal wastes, for treatment away from the site. It will then be necessary to rinse the boiler tubes. Because of the volume of rinse water, it is not practicable to haul it away. CIPS proposes to discharge to the ash pond the rinse water only.

Following chemical cleaning the boiler tubes are exposed down to bare metal which renders them highly sensitive to corrosion. To retard this corrosion a protective film must be formed on the tube surfaces. This is done by operating the boiler with hydrazine added to the cooling water. Because it was not economical to operate the boiler during the proposed cleaning period, the cleaning operation could not be carried out on schedule.

The boiler cleaning was originally scheduled to last a two week period from August 30 to September 13. There are not quite four weeks remaining between December 4 and December 31, the last date of the requested variance. There is no indication from the Agency that the timing of the scheduled cleaning is of any consequence. In order to avoid the possibility of a further extension, the variance will be granted through December 31, 1981, upon condition that it allows only a single cleaning episode.

The Board finds that CIPS would suffer arbitrary and unreasonable hardship if this variance were denied, for substantially the same reasons set forth in the Board's previous Opinion in PCB 80-25. The variance is granted with the conditions set forth below.

This Opinion constitutes the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law in this matter.

ORDER

Petitioner, Central Illinois Public Service Company (CIPS) is granted for its Meredosia Power Station a variance from the effluent standards for copper (total), iron (total) and iron (dissolved) of Rule 408(a) of Chapter 3: Water Pollution, subject to the following conditions:

1. This variance will expire December 31, 1981 or upon completion of cleaning of boiler number 6 (Unit 4), whichever occurs first.
2. This variance shall apply only to discharge to the ash pond of boiler cleaning rinse water resulting from a single boiler cleaning operation.
3. CIPS shall notify the Agency prior to starting and upon completion of boiler cleaning.
4. Petitioner shall not discharge EDTA boiler cleaning solution into the ash pond.
5. Petitioner shall conduct a study to determine treatment capabilities of the ash pond. The study shall include as a minimum data on pH of the ash pond, constituents in the metal cleaning waste rinses, the concentration of the constituents and the volume of cleaning waste rinses discharged to the ash pond. A summary of results

shall be sent to the Agency within ninety days of completion of boiler cleaning.

- 6. The Agency, pursuant to Rule 914 of Chapter 3: Water Pollution, shall modify NPDES Permit IL0000116 consistent with conditions set forth in this Order.
- 7. Within forty-five days of the date of this Order, Petitioner shall execute and forward to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Variance Section, 2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, Illinois 62706, a Certificate of Acceptance and Agreement to be bound to all terms and conditions of this variance. This forty-five day period shall be held in abeyance for any period this matter is being appealed. The form of the Certificate shall be as follows:

CERTIFICATION

I, (We), _____, having read and fully understanding the Order in PCB 80-187, hereby accept that Order and agree to be bound by all of its terms and conditions.

SIGNED _____
 TITLE _____
 DATE _____

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify that the above Opinion and Order were adopted on the 4th day of December, 1980 by a vote of 4-0.

Christan L. Moffett
 Christan L. Moffett, Clerk
 Illinois Pollution Control Board