

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
December 14, 1978

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY )  
and PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, )  
 )  
Complainants, )  
 )  
v. ) PCB 77-298  
 )  
WESCOM, INC., an Illinois corporation, )  
 )  
Respondent. )

MR. DEAN HANSELL, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, APPEARED ON BEHALF OF THE COMPLAINANTS.  
MR. RAYMOND I. SUEKOFF, ATTORNEY, APPEARED ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT.

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by Mr. Young):

This matter comes before the Board on a Complaint filed on November 17, 1977, alleging that on numerous occasions Respondent has discharged effluent from its sewage treatment plant containing concentrations in excess of the effluent and water quality standards in Chapter 3: Water Pollution Regulations and in violation of Section 12(a) of the Environmental Protection Act. Specifically, the Complaint charged Wescom, Inc. with effluent limitation violations in Chapter 3 of BOD<sub>5</sub>, suspended solids, copper, lead, fecal coliform and the coloration and turbidity requirements. The Complaint also alleged violations of the ammonia nitrogen, boron, copper, iron, lead, phosphorus, total dissolved solids and the unnatural color water quality standards of Chapter 3.

Hearing was held in Downers Grove, Illinois, on October 5, 1978, in which the parties submitted a Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement and members of the Bruce Lake Homeowners' Association offered testimony and pictures as exhibits H-1 through H-3 for the record. The Board will accept the testimony and exhibits as evidence of conditions in Bruce Lake downstream from Respondent's discharge.

Wescom, Inc., a manufacturer of telecommunications equipment, installed a prefabricated contact stabilization treatment facility in 1973 with an average design flow of 0.030 MGD to treat the domestic of approximately 1000 employees. The effluent from this facility is discharged to ponds on Wescom's property which flows into an intermittent ditch tributary to Bruce Lake and the DesPlaines River. Neutralized industrial wastes are also discharged to the Wescom ponds after it is passed through a sand filter bed (Stip. 2, 3).

According to the Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement, Respondent's plant population increased to approximately 1900 which rendered the treatment plant's biological processes ineffective. Respondent admits to each and every allegation in the Complaint. Since the filing of this action, Wescom has undertaken measures necessary to achieve compliance with the effluent and water quality requirements of the Act and the Water Pollution Regulations. Recently, Wescom has hired an experienced wastewater treatment facility operator to control and reduce effluent quality to applicable limitations. Currently, plans have been initiated to survey and repair leaks in Wescom's sewer system at an estimated cost of \$5400 and tertiary filters for \$400. Respondent has also installed a flow meter and equipment to reduce immediate levels of phosphorus and fecal coliform for a combined cost of \$4000 (Stip. 7, 8).

To permanently eliminate the effluent violations from Bruce Lake and the DesPlaines River, Wescom is in the process of abandoning its private treatment facility and is constructing a sewer system connecting Wescom to the Marionbrook Sewage Treatment Plant in DuPage County, Illinois, at an estimated cost of \$85,000. Since Wescom is contemplating the reduction of its current circuit board output to a prototype operation of several hundred circuit boards per week, the industrial effluent will be diverted from the Wescom ponds and collected in holding tanks to be disposed of at a properly permitted disposal site (Stip. 7, 8, 9).

#### PROPOSAL FOR SETTLEMENT

As part of the Settlement, the Respondent has agreed to terminate the use of the private domestic waste facility by November 30, 1978, and to discontinue the discharge of industrial waste by September 30, 1978. The Settlement also requires Wescom to apply to the Agency for an NPDES permit, and abide by the permit requirements, to discontinue the discharge of any backwash and to seal all industrial and domestic outfalls by no later than December 15, 1978. Respondent also agrees to pay a penalty of \$5,000.

The Board accepts the Stipulation and Proposal for Settlement submitted by the parties and finds Wescom, Inc. in violation of Rules 203, 402, 403, 404(f), 405 and 408(a) of Chapter 3: Water Pollution Regulations and Section 12(a) of the Act.

In assessing a penalty for these violations, the Board has reviewed the provisions in Section 33(c) of the Act. Based on this record, the Board finds that the Wescom treatment facility has social and economic value and would be suitable for Wescom's purposes if properly operated at design capacity. However, the water pollution generated by this facility is excessive in light of the technical practicability and economic reasonableness of improving the quality of the discharge to Bruce Lake and the DesPlaines River. The stipulated penalty of \$5,000 will be assessed against the Respondent.

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

ORDER

1. Wescom, Inc. is hereby found to have discharged contaminants into the environment of Illinois in violation of Rules 203, 402, 403, 404(f), 405 and 408(a) of Chapter 3: Water Pollution Regulations and Section 12(a) of the Act.


2. The Respondent, Wescom, Inc., shall pay a penalty of \$5,000 within 45 days of the date of this Order by certified check or money order payable to:

State of Illinois  
Fiscal Services Division  
Environmental Protection Agency  
2200 Churchill Road  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

3. The Respondent, Wescom, Inc., shall adhere to all provisions of the Settlement Proposal which is hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order were adopted on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1978 by a vote of 3-0.

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