

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
March 28, 1977

VILLAGE OF ST. PETER, )  
 )  
 Petitioner, )  
 )  
 v. ) PCB 77-43  
 )  
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, )  
 )  
 Respondent. )

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

This matter comes before the Board on the variance petition filed on February 4, 1977, by the Village of St. Peter seeking relief from Rules 203(c), 402, 404(c)(iii) and 404(f)(i) of the Water Pollution Regulations as regards phosphorus. An Agency Recommendation favorable to the grant of the variance was filed on March 3, 1977.

The Board has previously dealt with many petitions in which relief was sought from the requirement of meeting the phosphorus water quality standard. Village of Argenta and Village of Cerro Gordo, PCB 75-182, PCB 75-183, 18 PCB 152; Village of Strasburg, PCB 76-28; Old Ben Coal Company, PCB 76-21; City of Hoopeston, PCB 76-234. The Village is in the process of consolidating and upgrading its existing sewage treatment facilities. As in the cited cases, the Village is seeking this variance to qualify for a lagoon exemption under Rule 404 and to also qualify for Step II and Step III grant funds. While the Village could qualify for both the exemption and grant funds by providing the required phosphorus removal, the Village alleges that this requirement would impose an arbitrary or unreasonable hardship on the Village.

The Agency submits that requiring phosphorus removal to the 0.05 mg/l level is not both technically feasible and economically reasonable (Rec. 3, par. 10). Consistent with this belief, the Agency has filed a Petition for Regulatory Change (R76-1) with the Board which would amend the regulations by requiring only point sources which have 1500 or more population equivalent and which discharge into impoundments of greater than twenty acres to treat the wastewater to a level not to exceed 1 mg/l prior to discharge. Because the Village's expected waste load is only 500 population equivalent, the Village will not be required to provide any phosphorus removal if the regulation is adopted as proposed.

As in the earlier cited cases, the Board finds here that the Village would suffer an arbitrary or unreasonable hardship if required to meet the 0.05 mg/l phosphorus water quality standard and will therefore grant the requested relief.

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

ORDER

The Village of St. Peter is granted a variance for its sewage treatment facilities from Rules 203(c), 402, 404(c)(iii) and 404(f)(i) of Chapter 3: Water Pollution Control Regulations as regards phosphorus until March 1, 1982, subject to the following conditions:

1. This variance will terminate upon adoption by the Board of any modification of the existing phosphorus water quality standards and effluent limitations and the Village shall comply with such revised regulations when adopted by the Board.

2. Within 35 days of the date of this Order, the Petitioner shall submit to the Manager, Variance Section, Division of Water Pollution Control, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, 2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, Illinois, 62706, an executed Certification of Acceptance and agreement to be bound to all terms and conditions of the variance. The form of said certification shall be as follows:

CERTIFICATION

I, (We), \_\_\_\_\_ having read the Order of the Pollution Control Board in PCB 77-43, understand and accept said Order, realizing that such acceptance renders all terms and conditions thereto binding and enforceable.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNED

\_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

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 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1977 by a vote of 5-0.

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