

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
March 11, 1976

VILLAGE OF HECKER,)
)
 Petitioner,)
)
 v.) PCB 75-479
)
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
 Respondent.)

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

This case arises out of the variance petition filed December 18, 1975 by the Village of Hecker seeking relief from the chlorination requirements of Rule 305 of Chapter 6: Public Water Supply Rules and Regulations. An Agency Recommendation was filed with the Board on March 3, 1976. No hearing was held in this matter.

The Village of Hecker, which is located in Monroe County with a population of approximately 380 people, owns and operates a water supply system including five wells and a distribution system. The wells are bedrock wells and presently discharge directly into the distribution system without treatment. Present water consumption equals 17,500 gallons per day and the Village alleges that water samples from the existing supply have not indicated presence of contamination in the system.

The Village requests the variance until June 1, 1977, at which time it is anticipated that the Village will have joined the proposed Freeburg-Smithton-Hecker (FSH) water commission, which in turn will receive water from the existing Summerfield-Lebanon-Mascoutah (SLM) water commission. It is anticipated that the water commission will supply a finished water to the Village's distribution system. As a consequence of joining the (FSH) water commission, the existing five wells which presently serve as the source of supply for the Village will be abandoned.

The Village estimates that it would cost approximately \$1,600 to \$1,800 to presently achieve compliance. The Village submits that such an expenditure would impose an unnecessary burden and hardship on the Village in light of the fact that the operation of the (FSH) water commission is relatively near.

The Agency recommends the grant of this variance subject to several limitations. Contrary to the Village's allegations, the Agency's records indicate that during the past two years fourteen water samples from the supply have shown evidence of bacteriological contamination. However, twelve of those samples were from the pump house of well #1 and the Agency believes that contamination indicated may have resulted from the water standing for a long period of time in the pressure storage tank connected with well #1. In view of this, the Agency suggests that the following steps be taken:

(a) That within 20 days from the date of the Order herein the Village flush and disinfect the pressure storage tank located at well #1, and after having placed the tank back into operation collect and submit bacteriological samples from the pump house discharge on two successive days to be forwarded to the Agency for bacteriological analysis.

(b) If no contamination is then indicated from these samples, that the Village submit bacteriological samples for analysis from the pump house discharge weekly for the next month.

(c) If the succeeding weekly samples give no indication of contamination, the Village need not take any further steps toward chlorinating of well #1 and need only maintain normal maintenance and bacteriological sampling procedures.

(d) If either the samples taken immediately after the disinfection of the tank or during the weekly sampling program thereafter continue to show contamination, that within 20 days from the date that continued contamination is established, the Village disinfect the well source itself and submit samples to the Agency for analysis in the same manner as outlined above. If the succeeding samples show no evidence of contamination, the Village need take no additional steps toward chlorinating the well source.

(e) If evidence of contamination still continues to exist, the Village must within 10 days decide to either abandon well #1 as a source of supply or implement continuous chlorination at that well source. If the Village decides to implement continuous chlorination at this point, the installation must be accomplished within 90 days of the time that decision is made. If it is decided to abandon the well, it must be physically disconnected from the system within 10 days.

In the absence of continuous chlorination at the supply for the next eighteen months, the Agency also recommends that the Village adopt an active cross-connection control program to further assure that contamination external to the supply will not inadvertently enter the system.

We are disposed to grant relief. The Village has demonstrated hardship sufficient to obtain this variance. Water from the commission is scheduled to be available in sixteen months. While there is danger in not having its present supply chlorinated, the sampling program recommended by the Agency should be adequate to provide protection to the public in the meantime.

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

ORDER

The Village of Hecker is granted variance from the chlorination requirements of Rule 305 of Chapter 6: Public Water Supply Rules and Regulations until June 1, 1977 subject to the following conditions:

1. The Village shall follow the water sampling program as detailed in the Opinion.

2. The Village shall adopt a cross-connection control program and submit such program to the Agency for approval within sixty days of the date of this Order.

3. Within 21 days of the date of this Order, Village of Hecker shall complete and send, to the following address, the following certification:

Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Public Water Supplies
2200 Churchill Road
Springfield, Illinois 62706

I, (We), _____ having read the Order of the Illinois Pollution Control Board in PCB 75-479, 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 11th day of March, 1976 by a vote of 5-0.



Christan L. Moffett, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board