

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
March 25, 1976

WILCO AREA CAREER CENTER, )  
 )  
 Petitioner, )  
 )  
 v. ) PCB 75-173  
 )  
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, )  
 )  
 Respondent. )

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

This matter is before the Board on a Petition for Variance filed April 25, 1975, by the WILCO Area Career Center (WILCO), a Will County, Illinois municipal educational corporation, and amendments or other documents pertaining thereto filed on June 17, 1975, October 2, 1975, and January 16, 1976. No hearing was held in this matter. A Recommendation was received from the Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) on July 14, 1975.

WILCO was formed by five Will County school districts to consolidate and improve the trade and occupational education offered by those districts. WILCO has purchased a 20-acre site from Lewis University, adjacent to the University's Will County campus. The facility planned for that site has been under construction for some time, and is now 85 per cent complete. Initial occupancy is expected within two months, and classes are scheduled to commence on July 12, 1976. Total expenditures for the facility will amount to \$4,500,000, to be financed largely by the Illinois Capital Improvement Board. (See January 16, 1976 Amended Petition.)

The original Petition in this matter, and all its amendments, seek permission for the new WILCO center to connect its sanitary sewers to the Lewis University sewage treatment plant, located on property adjacent to the new center's site. Petitioner estimates that the WILCO center will generate approximately 600 gallons of effluent each school day, or 3,000 gallons per week.

This estimate is based on a total student population of 900 students, composed of three 300-student shifts, each of which will be present in the school for two and a half hours daily. The school will have no kitchen or shower facilities. WILCO needs a variance from Rule 962 of Chapter 3: Water Pollution, of the Board's Rules and Regulations in order to connect the new facility to the Lewis University sewage treatment plant, because that sewage treatment plant does not currently meet the applicable effluent regulations under Rule 404(f) of Chapter 3.

WILCO's inaccurate request for Variance from Section 12(a) of the Environmental Protection Act and Rule 404(f) of Chapter 3 is noted in the Agency's Recommendation; we shall, as is suggested in the Agency Recommendation, interpret WILCO's request as being for a variance from the applicable provision -- Rule 962.

We concur with the Agency's Recommendation, and find that a denial of this variance would indeed work a considerable hardship on Petitioner. The Petition, and its various supplements, do show adequately that the center will provide a necessary supplement to the education provided by the five concerned school districts. In addition, the expenditures to date by those districts, and by the Capital Improvement Board, have been considerable.

In deciding to grant this variance, we have weighed that hardship against the likelihood of environmental damage. We take note of our decision today in Lewis University v. EPA, PCB 75-504, and find that the likelihood of environmental damage from a connection to the Lewis University sewage treatment system would be minimal. The compliance plan in PCB 75-504 (connection to the Village of Romeoville's sewage treatment plant) will provide an adequate compliance plan in this case as well: by the end of 1976, WILCO's wastes will be routed through Lewis University to the Village of Romeoville's sewage treatment plant.

Weighing the hardship to the school districts involved, and to the students served by those districts, if the Variance were not granted, against the likelihood of environmental damage likely to occur if it is granted, we find that the grant of a Variance is warranted here.

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

ORDER

IT IS THE ORDER OF THE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD that Petitioner WILCO Area Career Center be granted a Variance from Rule 962 of Chapter 3: Water Pollution, of the Pollution Control Board Rules and Regulations, to allow a sanitary sewage connection to the sewage treatment plant operated by Lewis University.

Mr. James Young abstained.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order were adopted on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1976, by a vote of 3-0.

  
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Christan L. Moffett, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board