

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
August 7, 1975

GALESBURG SANITARY DISTRICT, )  
 )  
 ) Petitioner, )  
 ) )  
 ) )  
 ) v. ) PCB 75-148  
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 ) )  
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, )  
 ) )  
 ) Respondent. )

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

Petitioner requested a variance until May 1, 1980 from the ammonia nitrogen standard found in Rule 203(f) of the Water Pollution Regulations on April 4, 1975. On May 12, 1975 in response to a Board Order, Petitioner amended its variance petition. The requested variance is for an extension of a previously granted variance (Galesburg v. EPA, PCB 73-86, 8 PCB 279 (June 14, 1973) as extended Galesburg v. EPA, PCB 74-98, 12 PCB 485 (June 6, 1974)). The Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) recommended that the variance be granted until June 30, 1976. No hearing was held.

Petitioner owns and operates the sewer system and two treatment plants serving the City of Galesburg. The majority of sewer system is comprised of separate storm and sanitary sewers although combined sewers serve certain areas. The main treatment plant which is the subject of this variance petition provides secondary treatment by means of trickling filters. Chlorinated effluent is discharged to Cedar Fork Creek, an intermittent stream, tributary to the Henderson River, tributary to the Mississippi River.

The Agency alleges that Cedar Fork Creek has been degraded because of sewage bypassing at 42 overflow manholes in the Railroad Creek interceptor and central collector system. Sludge deposits and septic odors are reported in Cedar Fork Creek.

These bypasses are attributed to excessive inflow, infiltration, and overflows from the combined sewers. Although Petitioner has expended \$3,000,000 to separate storm drainage and \$7,000,000 on the treatment plant since 1970, excessive flows remain in the sanitary sewer system.

A sewer systems analysis has been performed to identify infiltration and inflow problem areas. Following this a feasibility determination will be carried out on reducing the inflow and treating the combined flows.

Because Cedar Fork Creek upstream from Petitioner's treatment plant discharge has a 7-day 10-year low flow of zero, Petitioner must comply with the water quality standard for ammonia which is 1.5 mg/l (Rule 203(f)). Effluent ammonia levels average 3.7 mg/l with a range of 0.7 mg/l to 9.4 mg/l. Waste water flows fluctuate greatly because of the problems outlined above.

The Agency states that Petitioner may require a "full-scale second stage activated sludge nitrification facility". Petitioner has undertaken a pilot study research program. This program will study nitrogen removal at higher ammonia concentrations than now entering Petitioner's treatment plant. These higher levels will result once Petitioner has completed the upgrading of its sewer system which is scheduled for September 1, 1981.

Petitioner was issued an NPDES permit on December 30, 1974 by the United State Environmental Protection Agency. This permit required Petitioner to comply with the ammonia standards of Rule 203(f) on January 1, 1975, unless a further variance from Rule 203(f) was obtained.

In the previous variance we thought that the NPDES program would be transferred to Illinois by the end of 1974 so that the Agency could issue Petitioner a permit beyond the existing deadlines. The transfer of the NPDES program has not taken place. We conditioned any future variance upon the submittal of a tentative schedule of construction and the results of a pilot study (Galesburg 12 PCB 485,487).

Petitioner has obtained an NPDES permit from the U.S. EPA and has submitted the results of the pilot study and a tentative schedule of construction. In addition, Petitioner has made substantial attempts to abate the water pollution problems resulting from overflows and its effluent. Therefore, we find that Petitioner should be granted a variance from Rule 203(f) as it pertains to ammonia. However, we feel that a five year variance is too

long. We recognize the problems faced by Petitioner in complying with construction grant requirements, and feel that all those connected with the problem should try to expedite their roles in abating this problem. According to Petitioner's schedule of construction the U.S. EPA and the Agency have been reviewing Petitioner's Infiltration/Inflow Analysis Report and Facilities Plan since October of 1974 and February 14, 1975, respectively, with approval anticipated by August 1, 1975. This has caused a six month delay in the completion of Petitioner's Sewer System Inflow Evaluation Study and Report. We find that a variance should be granted from January 1, 1975 until January 1, 1977.

This opinion constitutes the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law.

ORDER

The Galesburg Sanitary District is granted a variance from Rule 203(f) of the Water Pollution Regulations as it pertains to ammonia nitrogen from January 1, 1975 until January 1, 1977 subject to the following:

1) That Petitioner continue to exercise diligence in carrying out its program as submitted in the amended variance petition.

2) That the Petitioner continue to submit quarterly reports to Manager, Variance Section, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, 2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, Illinois 62706, detailing progress and conclusions in its pilot plant research and in all other steps toward completion.

3) Within 28 days after the date of the Board Order herein the Petitioner shall execute and forward to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Manager, Variance Section, at the above address and to the Pollution Control Board a Standard 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 and fully understanding the Order of the Illinois Pollution Control Board in PCB 75-148 hereby accept said Order and agree to be bound by all of the terms and conditions thereof.

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 7<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1975 by a vote of 5 to 0.

  
Christan L. Moffett, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board