ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD January 9, 1974

NORTH SHORE SANITARY DISTRICT,

Petitioner,

v.

PCB 74-344

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,

Respondent,

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

Petition for variance was filed September 23, 1974 by the North Shore Sanitary District ("District"). The petition requests an extension of the variance granted in PCB 73-502 on February 21, 1974 until December 31, 1974. It asks to retain the use of 8,653 population equivalents ("P.E.") remaining of 13,333 P.E. previously authorized for sewer connection permits to the District's Waukegan sewage treatment plant.

On September 27, 1974 the Board ordered that prior proceedings be stipulated into this record. This was done by the District in an Amended Petition filed October 17, 1974. No public hearing was held.

A condition of the predecessor variance, PCB 73-502, was that after April 1, 1974 the Waukegan plant would have to meet an effluent standard of 20 mg/l BOD $_5$ and 25 mg/l suspended solids.

The Agency recommendation was filed December 9, 1974. It gives operating data for the period from February through October. No year is given but presumably it is for 1974. These data show violations of the BOD_5 limit in all but one of the seven months after April 1, 1974 and violations of the suspended solids limit in each of the seven months. The average effluent strength for this period was 23 mg/l BOD_5 and 42 mg/l suspended solids.

The Agency believes that operational difficulties during construction may have caused the effluents to exceed the Board's limits. As operational experience is gained and the problems incident to construction are eliminated, the treatment plant efficiency is expected to improve, according to the Agency.

The design capacity of the plant is given as 19.9 MGD. Flow metering equipment has not been function and the only flow data available is for October 1974 which showed 19.085 MGD. The Agency states that were the 8,653 P.E. requested in the variance to be connected, 0.865 MGD additional flow would result and the plant would then be at 19.94 MGD or slightly over design capacity.

In the past year only 480 P.E. were connected and so it is doubtful, states the Agency, that full 8,653 P.E. could be connected in the coming year.

We are not given a full report as to the exact construction status of this plant. The Agency states that "construction of tertiary facilities is presently underway" but does not tell when they will be finished. The plant capacity in the near future, after construction is completed, is not given.

Flow data is an important part of a waste treatment plant operator's knowledge of his operation. A plant of this size should have accurate flow data available to the operator and to the Board. The single figure for October which we are given may have been recorded in a relatively dry month. In wet weather, the Waukegan plant may already now be exceeding its design capacity.

We grant the variance for an additional year. The effluent to Lake Michigan may improve shortly if the Agency is correct. However, we limit the number of population equivalents that may be connected to 2,000 instead of the requested 8,653 P.E. but not to exceed the plant's design capacity.

We shall require adequate flow measurement and a status report by March 1, 1975 to the Board and Agency on timetables for construction and the plant capacity resulting from such construction. A further report by September 1, 1975 is required.

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

ORDER

- 1. Variance is granted from December 31, 1974 to December 31, 1975 for the District to connect not more than 2,000 population equivalents to the Waukegan sewage treatment plant provided that the plant's design capacity is not exceeded.
- 2. Adequate flow monitoring of total flows to and through the Waukegan plant shall be operational by March 1, 1975.

- 3. A status report on construction at the Waukegan plant giving timetables for completion and resulting plant capacity shall be made to the Board and Agency by March 1, 1975 and September 1, 1975.
- 4. All applicable conditions of PCB 73-502 shall remain in full force and effect.

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 day of January, 1975 by a vote of 5-0

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