

that Masonite's effluent would not cause the fluoride level in the stream to exceed 1.0 ppm. For this reason, the Agency agrees with petitioner that Masonite's discharge presents a minimal environmental impact.

Masonite was granted a six month variance in the prior variance proceeding to enable Masonite to examine additional methods of achieving compliance with Rule 408(a) with respect to fluoride (Masonite v. EPA, PCB 74-211, 13 PCB 229 (July 25, 1974)). Since the granting of the previous variance, Masonite has spent approximately \$12,000 examining methods of achieving compliance with the existing fluoride effluent limitations. This has consisted of literature research reviews and both bench and pilot scale testing of various treatment systems. Masonite alleges that their research has indicated that the use of activated alumina is currently the most promising method to reduce their fluoride discharges. Masonite alleges that there does not exist technology at present which would achieve compliance with the 2.5 mg/l effluent limitation. For this reason Masonite requests an extension of the previously granted variance while it continues testing of the activated alumina program and additional literature research. The Agency agrees with Masonite and recommends the grant of the requested relief.

Both Masonite and the Agency refer to the pending regulatory proceeding before the Board which proposes a modification of both the water quality and effluent standard for fluoride, R 73-15. On January 16, 1975 the Board authorized for publication and final comment an amendment to Rule 408(a) which would set a new maximum effluent limitation of 15 mg/l for fluoride. However, the existing effluent standard for fluoride is 2.5 mg/l. Because of the minimal impact of Masonite's discharge and the pendency of the proposed amendment to Rule 408(a) the Board has decided to grant an extension of the previously granted variance.

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

ORDER

The Pollution Control Board hereby grants Masonite Corporation a variance from Rule 408(a) of the Water Pollution Regulations until January 23, 1976 or until the Board's pending amendment of Rule 408(a) is enacted, whichever occur earlier, subject to the following conditions:

1. Masonite's discharge shall not exceed a maximum of 12 mg/l of fluoride unless a greater number is adopted by the Board in R73-15.

2. Masonite shall submit monthly progress reports to the Environmental Protection Agency stating its efforts and results in limiting fluoride discharges.

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 23RD day of January, 1975 by a vote of

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Christan L. Moffett, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board