## ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD January 23, 1975

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY,	)	
Petitioner,	}	
v.	į	PCB 74-382
	)	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,	)	
Respondent,	}	

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

On October 23, 1974 General Electric Company (GE) submitted a variance petition for their General Purpose Control Products Department, located in Bloomington in McLean County. The petition seeks a variance for GE's plating operation from Rule 204(f)(2) Sulfuric Acid Mist Standards and Limitations of Chapter 2: Air Pollution of the Pollution Control Board's Rules and Regulations; and, in addition, seeks a variance from the operating permit requirement.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) recommendation, dated December 16, 1974, recommends that a variance from Rule 204(f)(2) be granted and that GE be required to apply for an operating permit for the plating operation.

According to GE, the amount of sulfuric acid used in four tanks in the plating department is 290 pounds annually, which when divided by 4160 hours of operation annually, which means a sulfuric acid usage rate of 0.0697 lb/hr, lost through evaporation and dragout. GE estimates the total emission rate of acid mist from the plating operation to be 0.00348 lb/hr. The Agency calculates that this emission rate is in excess of the emission limitation of Rule 204(f)(2), said limitation being 0.15 lb/ton acid used. GE would need control equipment of 99.9% efficiency in order to comply with the current Rule 204(f)(2) limit according to our calculation.

Pending before the Board is a regulatory proceeding R73-17, that, if adopted, would revise the emission limit for sulfuric acid mist applicable to GE's plating operation to 0.10 lb/hr. This proceeding was initiated by the Agency in order to reduce the problems small users of sulfuric acid have in complying with the present regulation. It is expected that Rule 204(f)(2) will be amended by the Board in the near future, and it is likely that GF will then be in compliance

with the amended Rule 204(f)(2) based on their current emission level.

We believe that GE's emissions, although in excess of the present Rule 204(f)(2) limit, are not significant and that no useful purpose would be served by requiring them to comply with this rule since this rule is presently under review by the Board. We therefore will grant this variance for a period of one year or until the Board adopts amendments to Rule 204(f)(2), which ever occurs earlier.

Regarding the operating permit for the plating department, we will require petitioner to apply for such permit, and we expect the Agency will consider the permit application in light of the pending amendment of Rule 204(f)(2).

## ORDER

- The petition of General Electric's plating department 1. for variance from Rule 204(f)(2) of Chapter 2 is hereby granted for either a period of one year from the effective date of this order or until the Board's pending amendment of Rule 204(f)(2) is completed, whichever occurs earlier.
- 2. General Electric shall apply to the Agency for operating permits required for their plating department equipment.

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 33 day of January, 1975 by a vote of

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