

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
August 8, 1974

MASONITE CORPORATION)	
)	
v.)	PCB 74-211
)	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)	
)	

OPINION OF THE BOARD (by Mr. Dumelle):

This opinion is in support of an order granting the variance on July 25, 1974. Petition for variance was filed June 6, 1974 requesting that 12 mg/l of fluoride be permitted instead of the 2.5 mg/l required by the effluent standards (Rule 408(a)).

Masonite operates the Illinois Research and Development Center in St. Charles. An industrial waste facility which uses dolomitic lime neutralization and flocculation together with a precoat rotary drum vacuum filter to remove calcium fluoride and other materials is operative.

The petition alleges that the effluent was predicted to be at 6 mg/l of fluoride from the above industrial waste treatment facility. This combined with the activated sewage treatment plant effluent would have then been diluted to achieve the 2.5 mg/l level of Rule 408(a).

It is alleged that instead of 6 mg/l the actual fluoride effluents have ranged from 8 to 18 mg/l. The petitioner speculates that this may be due to an insufficient reaction time (two hours) or to other reasons. A single batch treated for a longer reaction time did produce an effluent below 12 mg/l but on this record no further data are available to determine successful replication.

A further complication has been that flows through the activated sludge plant have been reduced, presumably by water conservation, and thus available dilution from this source has been lessened.

The environmental impact of a 12 mg/l fluoride discharge on Kress Creek is said by the petitioner to raise the water quality to only 1.0 mg/l compared to the 1.4 mg/l standard of Rule 203(f). Presumably, this computation is made using the entire flow of Kress Creek and is not computed at the edge of the mixing zone. The latter is the correct procedure.

The statement is made by the petitioner that the nearest drinking water intake is at Peoria which is many miles downstream and that no adverse effects will occur from this discharge.

No public hearing was held in this matter. On July 8 the Agency's recommendation was filed. The Agency essentially confirms the petitioner's statements on the facts given above. It draws attention to a pending regulatory proceeding before the Board (R73-15) which might result in a loosening of the 2.5 mg/l fluoride effluent standard. Kress Creek's flow is given by the Agency as 122 gpm or about 176,000 gallons per day. This would afford a dilution of 88:1 using 2000 gallons per day as the industrial waste fluoride discharge and neglecting the background fluoride content of the sanitary waste water. The Agency did not estimate the fluoride levels at the edge of the mixing zone as it should.

The Agency recommends a grant of the variance but at 10 mg/l of fluoride for a period of six months from the date of the order. They stress the petitioner's good faith efforts to achieve compliance. We agree with the Agency and grant a six month variance but at 12 mg/l as requested by the petitioner.

The Agency requested that the Board order daily monitoring of phenol. This was not part of the petitioner's variance request and therefore was not required by the Board.

This Opinion constitutes the Board's finding of facts and conclusions of law.

I, Christian L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion was adopted on the 8th day of August, 1974 by a vote of 4-0.


Christian L. Moffett, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board