

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
May 29, 1974

CITY OF WHITE HALL)
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 v.) PCB 74-127
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 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)

CITY OF WAVERLY)
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 v.) PCB 74-129
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 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)

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

The City of White Hall filed a petition for variance from Rule 203(f) of the Water Pollution Rules and Regulations (Chapter 3) on April 3, 1974. The City of Waverly filed a similar petition on April 4, 1974. Both wish to use copper sulfate to control algae in their water supply reservoirs.

On April 18, 1974 the Board ordered both cities to furnish information as to the actual levels of copper measured during the 1973 variances at the raw water intake to the water treatment plant. The City of White Hall replied on April 29 stating that no measurements were made last year since "we had no method or equipment for determining the level." The City of Waverly replied on May 3 and the levels it listed were below the 1.0 mg/l specified in the previous variance.

Rule 203(f) sets a water quality standard of 0.02 mg/l for copper. Previous Board opinions have discussed at length the merits of copper sulfate treatment to prevent algae growths versus possible long-term bottom contamination from copper buildup. The entire matter is pending before the Board in R73-13, Public Water Supply Rules and Regulations, and will be shortly discussed and decided.

The Agency recommends the grant of the two variances. It presented its own copper sampling data for White Hall but had no data available giving the copper content in the raw water intake immediately after the June 1973 dosage using 800 lbs. of copper

sulfate. Thus we do not know if the U.S. Public Health Drinking Water Standards were exceeded by this dosage. Therefore, in the interests of prudence, we grant the variance not up to the 1400 lbs. requested per treatment but only at 800 lbs. and we limit the frequency to two treatments during the algae-growing season (the requested frequency). We urge the Agency to follow existing variances to make certain that conditions of the orders are observed.

For Waverly, the Agency presents copper concentration data attributed to the petitioner but its numbers do not agree completely with data for the same dates submitted to the Board directly by the petitioner. We grant this variance as requested.

ORDER

Variance is granted to White Hall and Waverly to exceed the copper water quality standard of Rule 203(f) for the purpose of controlling algae in their respective water supply reservoirs with copper sulfate during 1974 subject to the following conditions:

1. The treatments shall be limited to one per month for the months of May through October, 1974 inclusive for Waverly and limited to two treatments during 1974 for White Hall.
2. The dosages shall not exceed 500 lbs. per treatment for Waverly and 800 lbs. per treatment for White Hall.
3. The copper concentration at the raw water intake to the water treatment plant shall never exceed 1.0 mg/l.
4. The copper concentration in the reservoir shall be measured immediately before and after each copper sulfate treatment. The results shall be submitted monthly to the Agency.

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 29th day of May, 1974 by a vote of 5-0.



Christan L. Moffett, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board