

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

June 20, 1974

AMOCO OIL CO.)
PETITIONER)
)
)
v.) PCB 74-120
)
)
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)
RESPONDENT)

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by Mr. Marder)

This case comes to the Board on Petition of Amoco Oil Co. for extension of a variance granted by the Board in PCB 73-398 (opinion issued December 20, 1973), filed April 1, 1974, from Rule 205 (g) of Chapter 2 of the Board's Rules and Regulations, until December 31, 1974.

The Agency filed its recommendation in this matter June 10, 1974, suggesting this extension be granted only until October 31, 1974.

No hearing was held.

This case stems from a variance granted by the Board in PCB 73-398. For a detailed discussion on the process and control program therein considered, the reader is advised to refer to our December 20, 1973, decision.

Petitioner is requesting variance from Rule 205 (g) of Chapter 2 of the Board's Rules and Regulations for its catalytic reforming unit.

Emissions from this unit are hydrocarbons, and are to be controlled by the use of a smokeless flare.

Amoco is requesting this extension because of alleged equipment delivery delays. Amoco alleges that if this variance is not granted, the only other method of control available would be to shut down the unit.

At the time of the Petitioner's filing Amoco expected to receive the flare equipment in mid-April, 1974. At the earliest, this would bring construction to completion in late July, 1974. Amoco does not believe this time frame is adequate, and so is asking the variance be granted until December 31, 1974 (Pet. Pg. 2) in order to avoid repeated variance petitions.

Amoco alleges that in November 1973 it reduced continuous hydrocarbon emissions from its blowdown stack from 105 lbs/hr to 17.5 lbs/hr (Pet. Pg. 2).

Amoco has submitted (Exhibit A attached to Petition) a survey of hydrocarbon emissions from its Wood River Refinery taken during December 1972 and January 1973. Amoco alleges that the analysis showed at that time that the emissions from the refinery had minimal impact (Pet. P. 3).

Since the time of the survey Amoco alleges it has reduced emissions from the unit in question by about 88 lbs/hr (Pet. P. 3).

The Agency states that non-methane hydrocarbon concentrations in the area of the refinery were 2.02 ppm during the test period last year, while the primary ambient air quality standard is 0.24 ppm (Agency Rec. P. 4). There are numerous other sources of hydrocarbon emissions in the area (Agency Rec. P. 4).

The Agency objects to the length of the requested variance. They state that Petitioner's supplier indicates construction of the proposed equipment can be completed by September 1, 1974 (Agency Rec. P. 4).

The Board finds that because of the already extensive slippage in the schedule of compliance to date, that it is reasonable to allow Amoco the extra two months requested to complete their compliance program, subject to the condition that they install equipment as received and put it into operation as soon as possible.

Hardship in this matter was determined in the previous opinion (PCB 73-398), but as a general review, the Board found that failure to grant the variance would necessitate shutting down the unit, and that this would cause a loss of 8000 to 9000 barrels of reformate per day.

The Board finds that Amoco Oil Co. has met its burden of proof for a variance under Sec. 35 of the Environmental Protection Act.

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

ORDER

IT IS THE ORDER of the Pollution Control Board that Petitioner, Amoco Oil Co., is granted variance from Rule 205 (g) of Chapter 2 of the Board's Rules and Regulations in order to operate its catalytic reforming unit located at its Wood River, Illinois, Refinery, until December 31, 1974, or upon completion of the installation of the pollution control equipment, whichever period of time is shorter, subject to the following conditions:

1. As Petitioner receives equipment, it shall be installed and put into operation as soon as possible.

2. Petitioner shall send to the Agency at the address below monthly progress reports as to the completion of the project.

Environmental Protection Agency
2200 Churchill Road
Springfield, Illinois 62706

3. Petitioner shall notify the Agency when all equipment is installed.
4. Petitioner shall apply for all construction and operating permits required.
5. Petitioner shall maintain in effect the performance bond as ordered in PCB 73-397 - 401 to guarantee installation of equipment as ordered.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the above Opinion and Order was adopted by the Board on the 20th day of June, 1974, by a vote of 5 to 0.

Christan L. Moffett