

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

March 14, 1974

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, Refrigerator )  
Division, Petitioner, )  
 )  
v. ) PCB 73-540  
 )  
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION )  
AGENCY, Respondent )

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by Dr. Odell)

On December 19, 1973, Petitioner General Electric Company (GE) filed for a variance to operate its plant at Cicero, Illinois, in excess of the applicable standards of Rule 205(f) of the Illinois Air Pollution Regulations (Chapter Two) effective December 31, 1973. Petitioner alleged that a shortage of isobutyl acetate, an exempt solvent, made impossible a December 31, 1973, compliance deadline. GE sought a variance to use non-exempt solvents until October 1, 1974.

Petitioner operates a refrigerator manufacturing plant. Work at the Cicero facility includes application of paint to refrigerator cases and doors in a process utilizing a prime spray booth, an electrostatic spray booth, two reinforcing and shade booths, and a cure oven. Photochemically reactive solvents are emitted in each operation stage, but only at the electrostatic spray booth do the limits exceed the 8 lbs/hour restriction specified in Rule 205(f). The photochemically reactive organic emissions in the electrostatic spray booth measure 21.94 lbs/hour when non-exempt solvents are used.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommended on February 8, 1974, that GE be granted a variance subject to certain reporting, notification, and compliance provisions. EPA supported Petitioner's contention that it had tried unsuccessfully to obtain the exempt solvent, isobutyl acetate.

We grant Petitioner's variance to enable it to develop an alternative formula for exempt solvents. The shortage of isobutyl acetate is not self-imposed. Furthermore, Petitioner has made a good faith effort to find other methods to satisfy the Rule 205(f) emissions restriction. It has investigated the use of an after-burner, a carbon absorption process, and has now undertaken to develop a paint formulation having less than 20 volumetric percent

organic material in accordance with Rule 205(f)(2)(D) of Chapter Two.

The Federal Energy Office has established mandatory allocation of petrochemical feedstocks to petrochemical producers - including solvent manufacturers - in a quantity equal to 100 percent of the producers current requirements (Fed. Reg. Vol. 39, No. 10, Part III, subpart 211J, January 15, 1974). Petitioner should utilize such exempt solvents as they become available.

ORDER

Petitioner is granted a variance from Rule 205(f) of Chapter Two until September 15, 1974, subject to the following conditions:

1. In the event that supplies of isobutyl acetate become available, Petitioner must immediately begin using its process incorporating it.

2. Petitioner shall submit monthly progress reports to the EPA indicating progress made towards achieving a compliance program pursuant to Paragraph 3 of this Order. Said progress reports shall be submitted to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Division of Air Pollution Control  
Control Program Coordinator  
2200 Churchill Road  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

3. Within five months from the adoption of this Order, Petitioner must submit to the EPA a modified compliance plan to replace that which has been nullified by shortages. This plan may:

- (a) Achieve compliance at the expiration of this Variance by replacement of photochemically reactive solvents with non-reactive solvents demonstrated to be readily available; or
- (b) Achieve compliance at the expiration of this Variance by qualification under the Alternative Standard of Rule 205(f)(1); or
- (c) Achieve compliance by May 30, 1975, under the provisions of Rule 205(f)(2)(D).

Said compliance plan shall be submitted to the same address that is specified in Paragraph 2 of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify that the above Opinion and Order was adopted on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1974, by a vote of 5 to 0.

Christan L. Moffett