

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

August 9, 1973

COEVAL, INCORPORATED,)
)
 Petitioner,)
)
 vs.) PCB 73-178
)
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
 Respondent.)

George Reschke appeared on behalf of Petitioner
Thomas A. Cengel, Assistant Attorney General for the EPA

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by Mr. Henss)

Coeval, Inc. operates a corn cob grinding and refining plant near St. Joseph, Champaign County, Illinois. The facility processes about 20,000 tons of corn cobs annually into a variety of sizes for various speciality uses. Petitioner operates 24 hours per day year around and employs 13 persons. The plant is situated in an agricultural setting with the nearest residence being some 1/3 mile distant.

On May 1, 1973 Coeval filed its petition for variance to allow continued operation while new baghouse equipment was being installed. According to the Agency, Petitioner requires a variance from Rule 3-3.111 of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Control of Air Pollution.

New management at Coeval has been responsible for reviving a nearly defunct operation. Mr. George Reschke, President of Coeval, took over the operation during the Spring of 1970 when the plant was experiencing severe financial losses, numerous fires, insurability problems and refusal of the railroad to continue serving the plant. After proceeding cautiously for a short period of time, gradual improvements were made throughout the facility including the installation of two baghouses during 1971 and 1972 for the control of process emissions.

Petitioner now intends to reduce emissions drastically by installing a baghouse which will serve 5 cyclones. Equipment has been ordered and is expected to be in operation around October 15, 1973. Coeval estimates the plant now emits about 178.1 lbs. of particulate per hour and acknowledges that it is in

violation of regulations. Agency calculations show Petitioner's estimated emission rate to be about 229 lbs. per hour. Petitioner apparently thought allowable emissions were 4.10 lbs. per hour particulate matter. However, the Agency points out that since Petitioner was not in compliance with Rule 203(b) on the date two new air pollution regulations were adopted, Petitioner's operation will be governed by Rule 203(a) which allows Petitioner to emit only 2.60 lbs. of particulate per hour. This lower emission rate should present no serious problem since the bag-house Coeval plans to install has an estimated efficiency of 99.99%.

Coeval requests that the variance extend to January 15, 1974 to allow sufficient time for the submission and processing of an operating permit application. We do not believe that this amount of additional time is necessary. The Agency has recommended that we grant the variance but only until October 15, 1973. The Agency points out that Petitioner can apply for the operating permits immediately upon receiving the variance. The Agency may grant operating permits when an emission source or piece of control equipment is covered by a variance. We believe permit procedures can be completed by November 15, 1973.

To deny Coeval this variance would probably be a devastating blow to the Company at this time. Testimony indicated that the corn cobs now being prepared for delivery to the plant would possibly be destroyed by burning if the plant could not accept deliveries during the time period involved. An Agency investigation revealed that none of Coeval's neighbors have experienced any serious problems because of the emissions and no objections were voiced to the granting of a variance. We shall grant the variance until November 15, 1973.

ORDER

It is the Order of the Board that Coeval, Inc. is granted a variance from Rule 3-3.111 of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Control of Air Pollution until November 15, 1973 for the purpose of continued operations while a new baghouse is being installed. Petitioner shall apply for all required construction and operating permits without further delay.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order was adopted this 9th day of August, 1973 by a vote of 5 to 0.


