

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
June 28, 1973

VILLAGE OF BRADLEY)
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)
 v.) PCB 73-142
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 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)
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OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by Mr. Dumelle)

This is a petition for variance from Rule 921(a) of the Water Regulations which prohibits the Agency from issuing a permit if the operation of the proposed facility will be causing a violation of the Act or Regulations. Hearing was held on May 31, 1973.

The Village wants to secure sewer connection permits for a shopping center, an automobile agency, a motel expansion and 500 single family homes. The Agency has had to deny the request because it has determined that the Village's sewage treatment plant is both hydraulically and organically overloaded, and therefore under Rule 921(a), no sewer permits could be issued. The plant discharges to the Kankakee River which affords a dilution ratio of 200:1.

According to the plant's operational reports, the average daily flow to the plant has been 1.98 mgd. According to the Agency this indicates that the plant is hydraulically overloaded by 0.7 mgd and organically overloaded by 6,400 P.E. Agency grab samples of the plant effluent taken between April 1972 and February 1973 show BOD at 20, 27, 22, 21, 52, 138, 10, 23, and 130 mg/l and suspended solids at 37, 102, 66, 45, 51, 26, 16, 38 and 36 mg/l.

The proposed new construction would be adding an additional 0.37 mgd of dry weather flow to the system and plant. The Village claims that this increase will be offset by the elimination of 0.40 mgd of stormwater due to a current sewer separation program. As the Agency points out, the proposed 0.37 mgd additional load would increase the burden on the plant on a daily basis while the decrease of 0.40 mgd of stormwater only takes into account flows generated during wet weather periods. We can see therefore that this may not be a net decrease on the plant's burden. Furthermore, BOD and suspended solids concentrations in domestic sewage are typically higher than those associated with infiltrated stormwater so that the organic burden on the plant will certainly be increased.

The Village contends that the replacement of a sewer line near Soldier Creek removed constant (therefore dry weather) inflow. The Village is planning to expand its treatment plant so that it will eventually be in compliance. At the present time, though, it is uncertain as to when that project will ever be completed. Completion of the project is contingent upon receipt of State and Federal funds and also upon the formulation of a plan by the Regional Plan Commission. Presently things are moving very slowly on that project and we have no idea when it will be completed.


We cannot fully grant the variance on the basis of this record. All that we can see is that there may be no net decrease on either the hydraulic or organic burden on the plant as a result of the sewer separation project and also that there is nothing definite as to when the plant will be expanded. Since the additional loads will be small and the revenue gain large we will grant a partial variance to permit service to the shopping center and the automobile agency. We deny the variance as to the 500 homes and Holiday Inn expansion but without prejudice to the Village of Bradley filing a later petition. The Board favors the construction of homes but 500 permits are simply too many to allow at one fell swoop without a deeper exploration of interim treatment improvements. We strongly suggest that Bradley instruct its consulting engineers to investigate the use of chemicals at the sewage plant (polymers, alum, etc.) to gain increased removal efficiencies as has been done elsewhere in the State.

ORDER

Variance is granted to permit sewer extensions to serve the proposed automobile agency and shopping center. Other requested extensions are denied without prejudice.

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 11th day of June, 1973 by a vote of 10-0.



Christan L. Moffett, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board