

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
July 19, 1973

CITY OF LITCHFIELD)
)
 v.) PCB 72-311
)
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)

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

This is a petition for variance requesting relief from Rule 405 of the Water Regulation which provides that no effluent shall exceed 400 fecal coliforms per 100 ml after July 31, 1972. Hearing was held.

Petitioner's present sewage treatment plant consists of a primary-secondary trickling filter facility with a design capacity of 8000 population equivalents. The design average flow of this plant is 1.0 mgd. The effluent from the plant is discharged into an unnamed drainage ditch tributary to the West Fork of Shoal Creek.

Petitioner is presently pursuing a program to upgrade these facilities and claims this construction will be completed by December, 1973. Appropriate disinfection facilities are to be provided under these plans and petitioner originally wished to delay installation of the disinfection facilities necessary to meet the requirements of Rule 405 until that time. According to the evidence, however, petitioner was going to install temporary chlorination by March 1, 1973 (R. 11).

The proposed complete project includes new primary clarifiers, new raw sewage pumps and controls, additional final clarifier with chemical feed, dual media gravity tertiary filters, primary treatment for excess flows received at the plant, chlorination for all flows received at the plant; gas recirculation for the two stage digester, mechanical sludge dewatering, and new control building and laboratory. These facilities will be designed for a 10,000 population equivalent.

In December, 1970, the City retained a consulting engineer to undertake a comprehensive study of the existing sewage treatment facilities. This report was adopted by the City Council in November, 1971. The City then authorized the engineers to prepare the final plans and specifications for the sewage treatment

improvements which have been submitted to the Agency for a permit. In addition, the City has made application for both State and Federal Construction Grants.

Investigations conducted by the Agency show that the effluent discharged from Petitioner's plant contains high levels of fecal coliform. Samples of the plant's effluent collected from July 7, 1970 to September 2, 1972 revealed average fecal coliform levels of 236,000/100 ml from the west final clarifier and 1,100,000/100 ml from the east final clarifier.

Samples taken by the Agency on September 27, 1972 (Agency Ex. 1) showed water quality violations for fecal coliform levels both upstream and downstream of the Petitioner's discharge to the unnamed tributary. A sample taken 50 yards upstream of the discharge showed a level of 40,000/100 ml. The effluent discharged by the petitioner on this day contained 1,000,000 fecal coliform/100 ml from the west final clarifier and 640,000/100 ml from the east final clarifier. Further, samples taken in West Shoal Creek showed an increase in the fecal coliform levels downstream of the confluence of the unnamed tributary. One-quarter mile upstream of this confluence, the level was 300 fecal coliform/100 ml and one and one-quarter mile downstream the level was 400/100 ml.

We find that there is no need for a variance in this case. Since the temporary chlorination facility was going to be installed by March 1, 1973, petitioner should now be in compliance with Rule 405 and therefore, no variance is necessary.

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

ORDER

The petition for variance is dismissed as being moot.

I, Christian L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the above Opinion and Order was adopted by the Board on the 11 day of September, 1973, by a vote of 4 to 0.