

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
April 4, 1972

GULF, MOBILE AND OHIO)
RAILROAD COMPANY)
)
v.) PCB 72-116
)
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)

OPINION OF THE BOARD (by Mr. Kissel):

The Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad Company ("GM&O") filed a petition for a variance with the Pollution Control Board on March 27, 1972. The GM&O operates a shop area of approximately forty buildings in Bloomington, Illinois; four coal-fired steam boilers on the premises are primarily used for heating these buildings. The Agency has informed the GM&O that its emissions from these boilers exceed the maximum allowable Illinois standard. At present, the GM&O has no collection apparatus on the boilers.

The GM&O seeks a one-year variance from the Board in order to study the various alternatives, e.g. shutdown, installation of a precipitator, conversion to an alternate fuel source or to an alternate heating method, available to it before it conclusively decides on its future course of action. The GM&O contends that it needs a year's time in order to survey the plant, the power equipment, and the piping and heating system. Further, from May to October, emissions are reduced by approximately 60% due to a reduced need for heat in the various buildings.

As this Board has previously stated, as a matter of policy it does not favor the granting of any variances without some definite assurance that the emissions will be controlled by available pollution control devices as soon as possible. (See Mt. Carmel Utility Company v. EPA, PCB 71-15). The particulate regulation which applies to GM&O's coal-fired boilers has been in effect since 1967. Under that standard, the maximum allowable emission standard in this State, even given optimum stack height, is 0.8 pounds of particulate matter per million Btu* -- one third of GM&O's present rate of particulate emissions. (See Rules and

* Petitioner should also examine the Board's Air Quality Standards, R71-23, to be adopted this month, which may subject their operation to a more stringent standard.

Regulations Governing the Control of Air Pollution 2-2.53). The time for study of this problem has long since passed for this petitioner. There is no question but that the technology for controlling such emissions is, and has long been, available. A definite program, not vague promises to conduct a "study", is mandatory.

The petition is hereby dismissed.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above Opinion and Order this 4th day of April, 1972, by a vote of 4-0.


Christan L. Moffett