## ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD July 18, 1972

| GRIGGSVILLE  | COMMUNITY  | SCHOOL  | UNIT | #4 | )      |   |        |
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Opinion and Order of the Board (by Mr. Currie):

This petition by the Griggsville Community School Unit (Griggsville) seeks permission to burn paper and milk cartons in violation of the open burning regulations for a year while pursuing the purchase of a compressor that would enable the wastes to be compacted for more convenient removal. The reason given why compliance with the regulations now would impose an alleged hardship is that refuse is presently collected only once a week; the implication is that there is inadequate storage space given the infrequency of collection.

We found the petition insufficient and entered an order April 25, 1972 allowing an additional 20 days in which to file additional information with respect to possible alternatives to open burning in the interim:

"It may be possible to obtain scavenger services more frequently than once weekly as at present; or a larger storage space could be obtained in the interim. Griggsville should explore such alternatives and the economic and practical difficulties thereof before it seeks to open burn. We would note that open burning has been prohibited by law in Illinois since 1965."

On June 19 we received a copy of a letter addressed to the Environmental Protection Agency and dated May 5, in which Griggsville indicated that as a result of communications with the scavenger, "it is hoped that some arrangement can be worked out to have more pickups in Griggsville per week;" that this "may be possible before school starts in September as many schools and places of business in Pike County have similar problems;" but that a variance was still desired since "we are not certain at this time and have no definite commitment."

No other information has been received from Griggsville.

On the basis of what is before us we must dismiss the petition. As we said in our preliminary opinion, open burning has been illegal for seven years; Griggsville has had plenty of time to make other arrangements for disposing of refuse. Even if all the allegations of the petition as supplemented are taken as true, no case for a variance has been made. The alleged problem is that there are too few pickups; even in response to our earlier order raising the point, there is no allegation to rebut the natural inference that the answer is to contract for more pickups. Indeed the May 5 letter agrees that this may indeed be an available alternative, and nothing is said at all about the possibility of providing more storage space in case pickups cannot be increased. Especially since Griggsville has until school starts in September to find an alternative to open burning, we do not think it has alleged adequate hardship to justify burning in violation of the regulations, and the petition is hereby dismissed, as the Agency recommends.

I, Christan Moffett, Clerk of the Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above Opinion and Order this /8 of day of July, 1972 by a vote of

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