ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD September 26, 1972

IOWA-ILLINOIS GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY)

#72-279

v.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

OFINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (BY SAMUEL T. LAWTON, JR.)

Petition for variance was filed by Iowa-Illinois Gas and Electric Company requesting a variance to permit the burning of coal in Boilers ##16, 17 and 18 at the Moline Generating Station until June 1, 1974, only in the event of severe emergency caused by major equipment break-down of the company's facilities, or the re-fueling of a nuclear unit at Quad-Cities Station and the inability to meet its load requirements from its operating facilities or by the purchase of electrical power from outside sources.

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Petitioner proposes that coal burning be defined as follows:

- "a. Coal is fired singly or in combination with gas fuel at a rate such that the equivalent steam generation rate for any boiler on coal is 25,000 pounds per hour or greater; and
- b. The boiler is 'on line' generating steam."

On September 16, 1971, we entered our Order, later modified by Order of October 12, 1971, which provided as follows (#71-165):

- "1. Prior to the time when Quad-Cities Station No. 1 is in commercial operation, Petitioner shall be permitted to burn coal in Units #16, #17, #18, #19, #20 and #21 in order to meet its load requirements, providing it is unable to meet such load requirements by the use of its other facilities, is not capable of obtaining gas or oil to burn in said boilers and is incapable of purchasing additional electric power from outside sources;
- 2. Subsequent to the commercial operation of Quad-Cities Unit #1, coal burning in Boilers #19, #20 and #21 shall cease and coal burning in Boilers #16, #17 and #18 shall be permitted only in the event of severe emergency caused by major equipment breakdown of petitioner's facilities, and the inability to meet

its load requirements from its operating facilities or by the purchase of electrical power from outside sources. "Coal burning" is defined as in the Agency recommendation quoted in this Opinion.

- 3. Refueling of nuclear units shall take place when gas supply is available unless Petitioner can demonstrate to the Board within 30 days from the date hereof, that such refueling cannot be scheduled at a time when gas is available.
- 4. Petitioner shall report to the Environmental Protection Agency and to the Board the circumstances under which it has been obliged to burn coal in any of the abovedesignated boilers including the reasons why such coal burning was necessary, the extent to which such boilers were used and the unavailability of the alternatives hereinabove set forth.
- 5. This variance shall not be extended beyond the date of its expiration except upon a petition being filed with the Board, hearing held thereon and further order of the Board."

Our order granted the variance for a period of one year, which terminated on September 15, 1972. The allowance was for interim operation of petitioner's coal-burning units, pending commercial operation of Quad-Cities Station #1.

The present petition is, in effect, a request for extension of the variance previously granted in #71-165. Petitioner anticipates that Quad-Cities Unit #1 will have gone through its first re-fueling by June, 1974, at which time coal-burning at petitioner's Moline Generating Station will be completely eliminated. The present petition is consistent with the order previously entered, and is granted for a period of one year subject to extension upon the filing of a petition and a demonstration of compliance with all terms and conditions heretofore required in our previous variance order.

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

IT IS THE ORDER of the Pollution Control Board that petitioner be granted an extension of the variance heretofore granted on September 16, 1971 as modified by Order of October 12, 1971 in Case #71-165, subject to the same terms and conditions as therein provided. The Board expects that the Quad-Cities Units will have clearly demonstrated their reliability by the expiration of this variance as extended, and this grant does not necessarily anticipate a further extension beyond the date of expiration.

I, Christan Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Opinion and Order was adopted on the 26th Day of September, A. D. 1972 by a vote of 5-0.

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