

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
February 3, 1972

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE)
)
) #71-232
 v.)
)
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)

MAJOR DARWIN H. MUELLER, ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER, SCOTT AIR FORCE
BASE
MESSRS. WAYNE GOLOMB and LARRY R. EATON, ON BEHALF OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

OPINION OF THE BOARD (BY MR. LAWTON):

Scott Air Force Base, located in the rural area of St. Clair County, approximately seven miles east of Belleville, is the headquarters of the Military Air Lift Command, whose mission is the support of the aeromedical air lift program which transports air lift patients throughout the United States.

Over the last few years, the Command has pursued a program of converting all of its coal-fired boilers to oil-fired boilers. Petition for variance was filed, requesting until December 31, 1972 to continue coal-burning with resulting violation of the particulate regulations, in order to convert from coal to oil two boilers in Building #45, the central heating plant, and three additional boilers located in Buildings #869, 3191 and 3670, respectively. Both the petition and the testimony adduced at the hearing indicate that the boilers in Building #45 will be converted by March 31, 1972 and the remaining three by October 31, 1972. The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that the variance be allowed to March 31, 1972 to enable conversion of the Building #45 boilers and October 31, 1972 to convert the remaining three boilers. The Agency, in its recommendation, states that no smoke violations have been noted nor does the present operation appear to be causing any nuisance or discomfort to residents in the general area. The Military Command is pursuing a pollution abatement program with diligence and is proceeding with all possible speed in consideration of the intricacies of military fiscal procedures.

While the petitioner has asked for the balance of the year 1972 in order to have a margin of safety in meeting its completion program, we do not feel that this excessive time is warranted. See Village of Wilmette v. Environmental Protection Agency, #72-5, dated January 17, 1972. If petitioner is incapable of meeting the time schedules without fault on its part, it may petition this Board for such modification or extension of this order as is appropriate. Accordingly, our variance allow-

ance will be for the period initially proposed for installation consistent with the recommendation of the Agency. Insistence on immediate compliance would be unrealistic and impose a hardship on petitioner disproportionate with any benefit resulting to the community.

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

IT IS THE ORDER of the Pollution Control Board that Scott Air Force Base be granted a variance to exceed the particulate limits set forth in the Rules and Regulations Governing the Control of Air Pollution pending conversion of the coal-fired boilers to oil-fired boilers, subject to the following time schedule:

1. Until March 31, 1972 for the two boilers located in Building #45; and
2. Until October 31, 1972 for the boilers located in Buildings #869, 3191 and 3670, respectively.

I, Christan Moffett, Clerk of the Pollution Control Board, certify that the above Opinion was adopted on the 3 day of February, 1972, by a vote of 5-2.


