

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

October 17, 1972

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)

v.)

PCB 72-199)

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS POWER COOPERATIVE)

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v.)

PCB 72-238)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)

INTERIM OPINION & ORDER OF THE BOARD (by Mr. Dumelle)

This is a consolidated action. The first case (PCB 72-199) was an enforcement action filed by the Agency on May 10, 1972, alleging that Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (hereinafter ("SIPC")), in the operation of its electric power generating station near Marion, Illinois, caused the discharge of sulfur dioxide, flyash and other contaminants into the atmosphere so as to cause air pollution, in violation of Section 9(a) of the Environmental Protection Act ("Act") and also in violation of Rule 2-2.53 of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Control of Air Pollution ("Rules"). The second case was a Petition for Variance filed by SIPC on June 13, 1972, requesting until April, 1975 to achieve full compliance with the Act and Rules.

A hearing was held on August 7, 1972 at which time the parties presented a Stipulation of Facts and the Agency filed its Recommendation and some evidence was heard.

SIPC is an Illinois nonprofit corporation engaged in the business of producing and generating electric power at its 100 megawatt coal-burning steam turbine power plant in Williamson County. The plant consists of three 33 megawatt units each fired by double 7-foot radial cyclone burners equipped

with mechanical multiple-cyclone dust collectors. Two of these boiler units exhaust into one stack and the third unit exhausts into a separate stack. Each stack is 210 feet high. The plant serves 27,000 customers.

The plant is expected to consume 250,000 tons of coal and 60,000 gallons of oil during 1972. The blended coal will have an average heating value of 10,700 BTU per pound with an average ash content of 14 percent and an average sulfur content of 3.5 percent.

Stack tests were made in June, 1970 indicating an emission rate of 0.44 pounds per million BTU which was allowable under the Regulations at that time. According to stack tests run in October, 1971, the average emission rate for particulates was 0.67 pounds per million BTU, which rate continues at the present time. Rule 2-2.53 of the Rules (see also Rule 203 of the Air Pollution Control Regulations, effective April 14, 1972) sets a limitation of 0.45 pounds per million BTU.

SIPC intends to install three electrostatic precipitators having an efficiency of 96% removal for particulates so that the average emission rate will be reduced to .04 pounds per million BTU. The cost is estimated at \$2,000,000. SIPC has proposed a time schedule as follows:

Start design	May, 1972
Start erection of first precipitator	May, 1973
Startup of first precipitator	April, 1974
Startup of second precipitator	October, 1974
Startup of third precipitator	April, 1975

The Agency's recommendation states that the program submitted by the petitioner is adequate to satisfy particulate emission regulations under the Pollution Control Board Regulations, Chapter 2, Part II, Rule 203(g) but is excessively prolonged by a period of three months. We also question the length of time requested. We are unsure from the record as to why the startup time for the three precipitators must each be six months apart. It would appear that all three precipitators could be installed within only one six-month period.

In years past the ash storage area has on the occasion of strong southerly winds caused objectionable situations with residents in the immediate vicinity. The Agency recommends that the petitioner notify the Division of Land Pollution and Water Pollution Control within 60 days of the Board order of the procedure used to dispose of their fly ash in their ash ponds. We also

find the need for the submission of a dust and ash control program. In addition, we need more information regarding the availability of alternate power, particularly from Central Illinois Public Service or Illinois Power since the testimony indicates that there will be a new transmission line in use by the end of 1972.

We will grant only a 90-day variance at this time. During that period we expect that the petitioner will submit a verified statement to the Board and Agency indicating any reasons why all three precipitators cannot be started up within the six months period beginning April, 1974. Furthermore, the petitioner should submit its dust and ash control program within those 90 days. We will decide the question of penalties in our final order.

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

ORDER

Southern Illinois Power Cooperative is granted a variance for 90 days until January 17, 1973, during which time the following shall be submitted to the Board and Agency:

1. A verified statement indicating any reasons why all three precipitators cannot be started up within the six months period beginning April, 1974.
2. A dust and ash control program.

The Agency shall respond within 21 days from the receipt of said additional information. This proceeding shall remain open for further orders.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order were adopted on the 17th day of October, 1972, by a vote of 5-0.


Christan L. Moffett, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board