

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
September 2, 1976

MRS. GENE HIGHT,)
)
 Petitioner,)
)
 v.) PCB 76-175
)
)
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION)
 AGENCY,)
)
 Respondent.)

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by Mr. Goodman):

On June 17, 1976, Lamplighter Realty Company filed a Petition for Variance before the Pollution Control Board (Board) seeking variance for Mrs. Gene Hight from an Agency imposed sewer ban on connections to the Round Lake Beach sewer system. Mrs. Hight seeks variance to allow the issuance of sanitary sewer service permits to serve two unimproved lots located in the Village of Round Lake Beach, Illinois. The Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) filed its recommendation on August 4, 1976. No hearing has been held in this matter.

In its recommendation, the Agency outlines the serious problems which the Round Lake Sanitary District (RLSD) currently faces. The Sanitary District's sewage treatment plant, to which any wastewaters generated on the lots in question would be transported, is severely overloaded. Design average flow for the plant is 1.63 MGD. Maximum flow which can receive treatment is 3.2 MGD. Flows in excess of the maximum are diverted to a three cell lagoon system and are chlorinated before discharge. Effluent is discharged into a ditch, referred to as Round Lake Creek, tributary to Long Lake. Agency sampling conducted during March, 1976, and Monthly Operating

Reports submitted by Round Lake Sanitary District reveal the following results:

ROUND LAKE SANITARY DISTRICT AGENCY SAMPLING

<u>Date</u>	<u>BOD</u> <u>mg/l</u>	<u>SS</u> <u>mg/l</u>	<u>P</u> <u>mg/l</u>	<u>NH3</u> <u>mg/l</u>	<u>FC</u> <u>no./100 ml</u>
3/24/76 (grab)	17	12	4.4	9.8	-
3/25/76 (grab)	8	13	4.1	11.0	100
3/25/76 (24 hr. com- posite)	22	23	3.5	10.0	-
3/26/76 (grab)	8	14	4.0	14.0	-
3/26/76 (24 hr. com- posite)	8	10	4.2	14.0	-

Due to a pump failure, unchlorinated secondary treatment effluent was being discharged directly to Round Lake Creek on the dates indicated in the following table. Agency grab samples taken of this secondary treated effluent reveal:

<u>Date</u>	<u>BOD</u> <u>mg/l</u>	<u>SS</u> <u>mg/l</u>	<u>P</u> <u>mg/l</u>	<u>NH3</u> <u>mg/l</u>	<u>Fecal Coliform</u> <u>no./100 ml</u>
3/24/76	100	60	3.7	12.0	1,200,000
3/25/76	140	60	3.8	11.0	-
3/26/76	150	55	4.0	13.0	1,600,000

The Agency also submitted a summary of effluent characteristics, derived from RLSD monthly operating reports. The reported flow does not include bypass flow to the lagoon system. Further, the Agency suggests that the reported flow may reflect less than actual flow due to the fact that flow meters are occasionally flooded.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Flow MGD</u>	<u>No. Days Bypassed</u> <u>to Lagoon</u>	<u>BOD</u>	<u>SS</u>
Apr. '76	3.1	16	8	17
Mar. '76	2.98	15	17	11
Feb. '76	3.076	11	26	17
Jan. '76	3.015	0	22	16
Dec. '75	2.95	0	3	20

The high flows tributary to the treatment plant are apparently due

to excessive inflow/infiltration. Round Lake Beach sewers are not capable of handling wet weather flows. According to the Agency, this situation results in surcharging and numerous backups. Agency files on Round Lake Beach reveal many recent complaints involving sewer backups and basement flooding problems.

The Agency also believes that Long Lake is in an advanced stage of eutrophication, which is aggravated by discharges from the RLSD sewage treatment plant. The Agency indicates that an attempt to improve the deteriorated condition of the lake is presently being pursued, but it is not known if this system, which involves an aeration system in part of the lake, will be successful.


Mrs. Hight requests the variance in order to allow sale of the property so that she may use the proceeds to pay a sewer assessment currently being levied on property she owns in Clarendon Hills. Mrs. Hight's petition suggests that she is elderly and has no other source of income from which to obtain the funds for this purpose. Mrs. Hight, however, has not indicated that she will be unable to sell the property without the requested variance, and she has not presented the Board with a valuation of her land, with and without a sewer system. Round Lake Beach and the Round Lake Sanitary District presently face very serious sewage treatment problems. The Board finds that the public harm caused by the sewer backups and basement floodings in Round Lake Beach, the severely overloaded sewage treatment plant of the RLSD, and the deteriorated condition of Long Lake outweigh the hardship alleged by Mrs. Hight. The Board, therefore, denies the requested variance.

This Opinion constitutes the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the Board in this matter.

ORDER

It is the Order of the Pollution Control Board that the petition for variance from Rule 962 of the Water Regulations, submitted by Lamplighter Realty Company for Mrs. Gene Hight, be and is hereby denied.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order were adopted on the 2ND day of September, 1976 by a vote of 5-0.



Christan L. Moffett, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board