

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
April 19, 1984

CITY OF MATTOON, )  
 )  
 Petitioner, )  
 )  
 v. ) PCB 84-47  
 )  
 ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL )  
 PROTECTION AGENCY, )  
 )  
 Respondent. )

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by W. J. Nega):

This provisional variance request comes before the Board upon an April 19, 1984 Recommendation of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency). The Agency recommends that a 45-day provisional variance be granted to the City of Mattoon (Mattoon) from 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.120(c) and 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.141(a) to allow higher levels of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and suspended solids (SS) in the effluent discharged from the Petitioner's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) during the time that its tertiary sand filters are removed from service for upgrading and rehabilitation.

The Petitioner owns and operates a wastewater treatment facility which has a design average flow of 4.5 million gallons per day (MGD). Mattoon's WWTP has treatment units which include pumping, primary settling, grit removal, activated sludge process, secondary settling, chlorination, treated storm overflow, sludge digestion and drying, and tertiary sand filters. (Rec. 2).

The proposed work to be done on the tertiary sand filters includes: (1) replacement of the butterfly valves; (2) installation of a new low pressure air diffusion system; (3) partial replacement and cleaning of the underdrain mesh; (4) cleaning of the clearwell; and (5) installation of a new chemical cleaning system. (Rec. 2).

Because some of the butterfly valves and piping are at, or below, water level and the clearwell needs to be drained in order to clean it, the only feasible method of performing this work is to temporarily remove the sand filters from service. (Rec. 2). The Petitioner contends, and the Agency agrees with the Petitioner, that this procedure is the best method for upgrading and rehabilitating the sand filters and rapidly getting these filters back into service. (Rec. 2).

Mattoon has experienced various problems with its sand filters since at least October, 1983. (Rec. 3). Since that time, the Petitioner has reported the following levels for BOD and SS on its discharge monitoring reports to the Agency:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Flow (MGD)</u>	<u>BOD</u>		<u>SS</u>	
		<u>Avg. (mg/l)</u>	<u>Max.(mg/l)</u>	<u>Avg. (mg/l)</u>	<u>Max. (mg/l)</u>
October, 1983	5.4	10	14	17	21
November, 1983	7.3	9	11	17	19
December, 1983	8.2	8	9	15	22
January, 1984	5.3	10	11	15	18
February, 1984	<u>7.4</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>16</u>
Average	6.7	9	11	15	19

According to the Agency's field personnel, Mattoon's WWTP is currently able to process only one to two MGD through its tertiary sand filters. (Rec. 3). However, as indicated in the above table, the Petitioner is still able to meet its NPDES Permit limits with some excursions in SS even though most of the flow is bypassing the filters. (Rec. 3). Mattoon's effluent limitations as set forth in NPDES Permit No. IL0029831 are 10 mg/l BOD and 12 mg/l SS as 30 day averages, and 25 mg/l BOD and 30 mg/l SS as daily maximums. (Rec. 3).

The Petitioner has indicated that it does not expect any adverse environmental impact to be caused by a small increase in BOD and SS levels in the effluent during the time period of the requested provisional variance because of the high stream flows during this part of the year. Mattoon intends to operate all portions of its WWTP except the tertiary sand filters during the period when the filters are being upgraded. (Rec. 3).

The Agency believes that the provisional variance is appropriate because it will allow the Petitioner an opportunity to correct the problems previously experienced with the sand filters and will have a minimal environmental impact on the receiving stream due to the high stream flows and the quality of the effluent discharged from Mattoon's WWTP. (Rec. 3). Accordingly, the Agency believes that the denial of the provisional variance would impose an arbitrary or unreasonable hardship on the City of Mattoon.

Thus, the Agency recommends that the Board grant the City of Mattoon a 45-day provisional variance from Sections 304.120(c) and 304.141(a), subject to certain conditions. Pursuant to Section 35(b) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, the Board hereby grants the provisional variance as recommended.

ORDER

The City of Mattoon is hereby granted a provisional variance from 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.120(c) and 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.141(a) for a period of 45 days to begin on April 19, 1984 to allow higher levels of BOD and SS in the effluent discharged from the Petitioner's wastewater treatment plant during the time that its tertiary sand filters are removed from service for upgrading and rehabilitation, subject to the following conditions:

1. The Petitioner shall meet the effluent limitations as given below:

	<u>30 day avg.</u>	<u>daily max.</u>
BOD	20 mg/l	30 mg/l
SS	25 mg/l	37 mg/l

The frequency of sampling and testing shall remain as in NPDES Permit #IL0029831.

2. Work on the sand filters shall continue as expeditiously as possible so that the sand filters will be returned to service as soon as possible.

3. The Petitioner shall notify Roger Cruse of the Agency's Compliance Assurance Section by telephone at 217/782-9720 of any violations of the above effluent limits. Such notification shall be followed by written notification sent to Robert Cruse at the address indicated below.

4. The Petitioner shall notify Roger Cruse by telephone at 217/782-9720 when the work on the sand filters is completed and when the sand filters are placed back in service. Such notification(s) shall be followed by written notification(s) sent to Roger Cruse at the address indicated below.

5. During the period of this variance, the Petitioner shall operate and maintain the wastewater treatment facility (with the exception of the tertiary sand filters) so as to achieve the best quality of effluent possible.

6. If the work to the sand filters is accomplished in less than 45 days, this variance shall expire when the work to the sand filters is completed and they are placed back in service.

7. Within 10 days of the date of the Board's Order, the City of Mattoon shall execute a Certificate of Acceptance and Agreement which shall be sent to: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Water Pollution Control, Com-

pliance Assurance Section, 2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, Illinois 62706. This certification shall have the following form:

CERTIFICATION

I, (We), \_\_\_\_\_ having read the Order of the Illinois Pollution Control Board in PCB 84-47 dated April 19, 1984, understand and accept the said Order, realizing that such acceptance renders all terms and conditions thereto binding and enforceable.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Petitioner

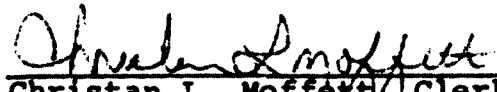
\_\_\_\_\_  
By: Authorized Agent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify that the above Opinion and Order was adopted on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1984 by a vote of 6-5.

  
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Christan L. Moffett, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board