



nitrification. Performance of this plant has been discouraging. Ammonia nitrogen reduction has been intermittent and has not proven to be a significant improvement over the single stage refinery waste treatment plant. Nitrification has been achieved for varying lengths but not on a continuous basis.

Mobil has stated in its variance petition that it needs two years to determine whether the two-stage pilot plant can be effectively utilized to reduce ammonia nitrogen effluent to comply with Rule 406. The Agency has recommended that a variance be granted for a period of one year with interim limitations of 25 mg/l (monthly average) and 40 mg/l (daily maximum). In response to the Agency's recommendation, Mobil stated that it still requires a two-year variance and that interim limits of 35 mg/l (monthly average) and 60 mg/l (daily maximum) for ammonia nitrogen are more realistic.

Considering the past good faith efforts by Mobil and its continuing search for a method of compliance, the Board is willing to grant the variance for a period of two years to ensure that sufficient data are collected to determine the feasibility of biological nitrification as a means to reduce ammonia nitrogen. The Board, however, believes that interim standards of 25 mg/l (monthly average) and 40 mg/l (daily maximum) are achievable based on the information provided by the Petitioner. Excursions due to unforeseeable malfunctions, unseasonable weather, and emergency situations are faced by all permittees and must be addressed if and when they occur.

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

#### ORDER

It is the Order of the Illinois Pollution Control Board that Mobil Oil Corporation be granted a variance from Rule 406 of Chapter 3: Water Pollution until July 1, 1982, subject to the following conditions:

- a) Petitioner's ammonia nitrogen effluent discharge shall not exceed a monthly average concentration of 25 mg/l and a daily maximum concentration of 40 mg/l during the period of this variance.
- b) Petitioner shall continue efforts to develop a program which will result in compliance with Rule 406 of said Chapter 3.
- c) Petitioner shall continue to submit bi-monthly reports to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency outlining Petitioner's efforts to achieve compliance with Rule 406 of said Chapter 3.
- d) Petitioner shall, by May 1, 1982, provide said Agency

with a written technical proposal and time schedule for compliance with Rule 406 of Chapter 3.

e) Within 45 days after the date of this Order, Petitioner shall execute and forward to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Water Pollution Control, Compliance Assurance Unit, 2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, Illinois 62706, a Certification of acceptance and agreement to be bound to all terms and conditions of the variance. This 45-day period shall be held in abeyance for any period during which this matter is appealed. The certification shall be as follows:

CERTIFICATION

Mobil Oil Corporation hereby accepts and agrees to be bound by all terms and conditions of the order of the Pollution Control Board in PCB 80-54 dated \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Petitioner

By \_\_\_\_\_, Authorized Agent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify that the above Opinion and Order were adopted on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1980 by a vote of 5-0.

Christan L. Moffett  
Christan L. Moffett, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board