

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

August 18, 1977

ELDORADO COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL	)	
DISTRICT #4, Petitioner	)	
	)	
	)	
v.	)	PCB 77-127
	)	
	)	
ENRIRONMENTAL PRTOECTION AGENCY,	)	
Respondent	)	
	)	
	)	

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

This matter is before the Board on a Petition for Variance filed by the Eldorado Community Unit School District #4 (Eldorado) on May 9, 1977. An Amendment to the Petition was filed on May 31 pursuant to the Board Order of May 12th requesting additional information. The Agency Recommendation in support of the variance was received on August 17, 1977. No hearing was held.

The variance requested herein concerns the expansion of Petitioner's Hillcrest Elementary School. Variance is sought from Chapter 3:Water Pollution Regulations, Rules 604(b), 404(f), and 402 in order to connect the Hillcrest School to the City of Eldorado's sewerage system and to operate the school's present sewage treatment facility in the interim.

Eldorado is expanding Hillcrest because hazardous conditions have forced closing three other schools in the district, thus requiring accommoDation of 471 additional students. Hillcrest, with 245 students, is presently served by a small on-site facility discharging into an unnamed tributary of Rector Creek which is tributary to the North Fork of Saline River. The Hillcrest

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facility is presently overloaded. Compliance with existing regulations and accomodation of additional students would require upgrading the facility at a minimum cost of \$80,000.

The alternative to upgrading the present facility is to construct an extension to connect to the City of Eldorado sewer system. The City system, however, is presently on "restricted status" due to severe infiltration/inflow problems resulting from unexpected growth in the population of the City. Upgrading of the City of Eldorado Sewer System so as to meet present standards is being planned. Step 1 grant work is essentially complete and a Step 2-3 grant has been offered, but the Agency has yet to receive the plans or permit applications. The projected time table indicatês full operation is possible within 900 days after receipt of the Step 2/3 grant agreement.

Eldorado argues, and the Board agrees, that denial of the variance would impose an unreasonable hardship. Construction costs of a new or upgraded Hillcrest treatment facility are double that of the proposed sewer extension. Maintenance costs of an upgraded facility are greater than of the proposed sewer extension for which maintenance costs would practically be eliminated. Land acquisition for a new on-site facility would add considerably to its costs, and upgrading the present on-site plant would utilize land so as to eliminate the physical education facilities planned for the area.

Against the hardship weigh the environmental considerations. The Agency indicates that though the Hillcrest facility does not include disinfection, the effluent is well nitrified and low in carbonaceous BOD. Discharge from this plant is small and of relatively high quality. Further, the three schools will not be vacated until September, 1978. Because two of the schools closing are presently connected to the City system, the connection of the Hillcrest school extension will result in the increased use by 375 students or a 100 population equivalent. Measurements of grab samples at the City facility, which discharges into a tributary of the Saline, are indicative of a good quality effluent considering the type of plant and nature of the overload.

Under these circumstances, the Board finds that Petitioner has shown sufficient hardship to warrant a variance from the sewer ban to allow connection of the Hillcrest extension to the City of Eldorado's sewage system and from Rules 404(f) and 402 of Chapter 3 to operate the present Hillcrest facility until the connection is completed, presently scheduled for late 1977.

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IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order were adopted on the 18th day of August, 19 77 by a vote of 5-0.

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

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

ORDER

IT IS THE ORDER OF THE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD THAT:

1. Eldorado Community Unit School District #4 is hereby granted a variance from Rule 604(b) of Chapter 3:Water Pollution Regulations to allow the connection of the Hillcrest extension to the City of Eldorado sewage system.
2. Petitioner is hereby granted variance from Rules 404(f) and 402 in order to allow operation of the Hillcrest sewage treatment plant until the Hillcrest extension is connected, subject to the following condition:
 - a. Petitioner shall operate the existing Hillcrest facility in good order, free from vegetation and debris.
3. Petitioner, within twenty eight days after the date of the Board Order herein, shall execute and forward to the Manager, Variance Section, Division of Water Pollution Control, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, 2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, Illinois, 62706, and to the Pollution Control Board, a Certification of Acceptance and agreement to be bound to all the terms and conditions of the Order herein. The form of said Certification shall be as follows:

I (We), _____, having read and fully understand the order of the Pollution Control Board in PCB 77-127, hereby accept said Order and agree to be bound by all of the terms and conditions thereof.

Signed: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____