

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
September 30, 1976

GRANITE CITY STEEL, DIVISION OF )  
NATIONAL STEEL CORPORATION, )  
 )  
Petitioner, )  
 )  
v. ) PCB 76-192  
 )  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, )  
 )  
Respondent. )

Mrs. Leah S. Hamilton and Mr. Douglas C. Nohlgren, Jenner & Block,  
appeared on behalf of Petitioner  
Mr. Richard L. Bordelon, appeared on behalf of Respondent

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

This matter comes before the Board on the Petition for Extension of Variance filed July 15, 1976 by Granite City Steel seeking relief from Rules 203(c) and 402 of Chapter 3: Water Pollution Regulations as regards phosphorus. The Agency filed a Recommendation on September 1, 1975; no hearing was held in this matter.

Petitioner employs 5,000 persons at its Madison County plant which produces flat rolled steel products. Most of the water used by Petitioner is drawn from the Mississippi River. Petitioner operates a wastewater treatment facility consisting of three oil-water separation basins, an isolation basin, and a two-cell biological oxidation stabilization basin. The 61 MGD discharge from the treatment facility enters Horseshoe Lake, from which the water returns to the Mississippi River via the Cahokia Canal.

The Company does not add or use phosphorus in its process. However, the phosphorus concentration in the treatment plant's discharge often exceeds the Rule 203(c) standard due to the background concentration of phosphorus contained in the water drawn from the Mississippi River. The average daily phosphorus concentration in Petitioner's discharge and in the intake water were found to be 0.18 mg/l and 0.27 mg/l respectively. Petitioner seeks this variance so that it can discharge its wastewater with a phosphorus concentration no greater than its intake water.

In the Opinion dealing with the original variance petition (PCB 75-58, 19 PCB 7), the Board found that the necessary technology needed to reduce the phosphorus to the 0.05 mg/l standard is not practically available. Consistent with this view expressed by the Board, the Agency has filed a petition (R76-1) with the Board, seeking changes in the phosphorus regulation. This proposal would delete the 0.05 mg/l water quality standard for phosphorus and add a 1.0 mg/l effluent standard for sources discharging into a lake or reservoir with a surface area of 20 acres or more and whose untreated waste load is 1500 or more population equivalent.

In view of the foregoing, the Board is disposed to grant the variance extension. As Petitioner requested, the Board will require that the phosphorus concentration in the treatment plant's discharge shall not exceed the concentration of Petitioner's intake water from the Mississippi River.

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

#### ORDER

1. Petitioner, Granite City Steel, is granted variance from Rules 203(c) and 402 of Chapter 3 as regards phosphorus until October 1, 1981, or 20 days after the Board takes final action in consideration of Agency Regulatory Proposal (R76-1), whichever is earlier.

2. During the period of the variance, Granite City Steel shall not discharge concentrations of phosphorus into Horseshoe Lake in excess of the phosphorus concentration of its intake water drawn from the Mississippi River.

3. Within 35 days of the date of this Order, Petitioner shall submit to the Manager, Variance Section, Division of Water Pollution Control, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, 2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, Illinois, 62706, an executed Certification of Acceptance and agreement to be bound to all terms and conditions of the variance. The form of said certification shall be as follows:

#### CERTIFICATION

I, (We), \_\_\_\_\_ having read the Order of the Pollution Control Board in PCB 76-192, understand and accept said Order, realizing that such acceptance renders all terms and conditions thereto binding and enforceable.

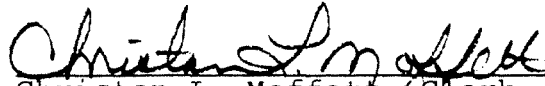
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNED

\_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

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 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1976 by a vote of 5-0.



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