

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
March 17, 1977

CITY OF FARMINGTON, )  
 )  
 Petitioner, )  
 )  
 v. ) PCB 77-41  
 )  
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, )  
 )  
 Respondent. )

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

On February 3, 1977, the City of Farmington (City) filed a Petition for Variance before the Pollution Control Board (Board) requesting relief from the Board's Order in PCB 75-129 (May 20, 1976) requiring installation of a grit chamber at its wastewater treatment plant. The Agency filed its Recommendation on March 4, 1977. No hearing has been held in this matter.

The City's sewage treatment plant, which was constructed in 1956, is to be abandoned in early 1978. It was designed to serve a population of 4,000, and the attached population to the plant is currently about 4,000. The trickling filter, however, was designed for a population of 3,000. Prior to 1975, the proper operation and maintenance of the plant had been neglected, resulting in poor quality effluent being discharged to Littler's Creek. The Agency indicates better operation of the sewage treatment plant has occurred as a result of the enforcement action filed in PCB 75-129.

The City was awarded a Step 2 and Step 3 state grant on April 30, 1976, for the construction of a lift station, 8,500 feet of 16" force main and a two cell lagoon system followed by intermittent sand filters and chlorination designed to serve 4,800 PE. Operation of the new facilities is to begin February 28, 1978.

On May 20, 1976, the Board, in PCB 75-346, granted the City a variance from the BOD and suspended solids limitations of Rule 404(f) of the Water Regulations, Chapter 3 of the Board's Rules and Regulations, for its wastewater treatment facility until March 31, 1977, subject to various conditions. One of those conditions was that a grit chamber be installed and operated as soon as practicable, in no event later than January 31, 1977. The grit chamber requirement was intended to insure that there would be no bypassing of the treatment plant directly to the receiving stream. Whenever grit accumulated in the primary tank, the plant would have to be shut down and the primary tank drained and cleaned.

Subsequent to the City's original petition for variance, the City and the Agency determined that installation of a grit chamber would not be necessary if sludge was removed from the primary clarifier frequently. The Agency and the City on April 8, 1976, requested the Board to modify its Order requiring the installation of a grit chamber. The Board, however, held that a proposal to modify a previous Board Order some two months after compliance was to be completed was inappropriate. The Board suggested that Respondent follow the variance procedures.

The Agency indicates that the City has adequately complied with the Order issued in PCB 75-129, except for the requirement of the installation of the grit chamber. Agency field personnel report that to date they are not aware of any recent bypassing of the treatment plant due to accumulated grit in the primary tank.

The City contends that denial of its variance request will result in an arbitrary and unreasonable hardship. Installation of the grit chamber would cost \$9,000.00 but it would have a useful life to the City of only 16 months, ending when the new sewage treatment facility would be operational.

The Agency recommends that the City be relieved of the requirement to install a grit chamber, subject to certain conditions including availability of a high-velocity trash pump, daily removal of sludge from the primary clarifiers and installation of a bypass around the primary tank to the trickling filter. The Board agrees with the Agency's conclusion and will grant the variance requested herein, subject to the conditions listed below.

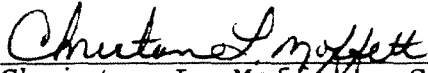
This Opinion constitutes the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the Board in this matter.

ORDER

It is the Order of the Pollution Control Board that the City of Farmington be granted variance from the Board's Orders in PCB 75-129 and PCB 75-346 to the extent that installation of a grit chamber shall not be required, subject to the following conditions:

1. that sludge is removed daily from the primary clarifiers;
2. that a high-velocity trash pump be made available;
3. that a bypass be installed around the primary tank to the trickling filter;
4. that bypassing around the primary tank be minimized to the lowest practicable degree.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order were adopted on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1977 by a vote of 4-0.

  
Christan L. Moffett, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board