

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
May 31, 1973

GRANITE CITY STEEL COMPANY)
)
) #73-26
)
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v.)
)
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)

RANDALL ROBERTSON OF LEUDERS, ROBERTSON & KONZEN AND LEAH HAMILTON
OF JENNER & BLOCK ON BEHALF OF GRANITE CITY STEEL COMPANY
THOMAS J. IMMEL, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, ON BEHALF OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (BY SAMUEL T. LAWTON, JR.):

On April 25, 1972, in Case #70-34, we entered our Order in the above-captioned proceeding approving a Stipulation entered into between the parties, which disposed of the complaint and provided for installation of air pollution abatement equipment and the adoption of operational procedures designed to control the emissions of particulate matter emanating from the operation of Granite City Steel Company's integrated steel mill located in Granite City, Illinois.

Our Opinion of May 3, 1972 supports the Order. The Stipulation embodied in the April 25, 1972 Order provided for the granting of certain variances from the Air Pollution Regulations to enable the additions and modifications to the plant to be made beyond the date of the entry of the Order and in some instances, in contemplation of periods of time extending more than the one-year period for which variances may be granted.

Paragraph 9 of the Stipulation provided as follows:

"Variances shall be granted to Granite City Steel Company for installation and operation of equipment as set forth in Exhibit A, effective on the date of the Pollution Control Board Order approving this Stipulation, as follows:

- (a) Coke oven operation, including transporting coke to quench tower, 12 months, except charging or any operation of which charging is considered a part for purposes of regulation, subject to extension for an additional period of twelve months;
- (b) Quenching operation, six months;

- (c) Blast Furnace, to and including December 31, 1971;
- (d) Sinter breaker process stack, 60 days from the date of Order or date next operated after Order, whichever is later.

Granite City Steel Company shall be granted variances for installation and operation of equipment specified in subparagraphs (e) and (f) below, and outlined further in Exhibit A for a period of one year from the date of the Pollution Control Board Order approving this Stipulation and so long as all provisions set forth in this paragraph are complied with;

- (e) Charging and any operation of which charging is considered a part for purposes of regulation, to be completed within 30 months from the date of the Order approving this Stipulation;
- (f) Sinter process main windbox and pug mill, to be completed within 19-1/2 months from the date of the Order approving this Stipulation.

Granite City Steel Company shall make application to the Pollution Control Board for desired extensions of variances. If Granite City Steel Company shows satisfactory progress to the Environmental Protection Agency as herein defined, extension of the variances, described in (e) and (f) immediately above, shall be recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency to the Pollution Control Board prior to consideration by the Pollution Control Board. For purposes of extending variances, "satisfactory progress" as used in the Environmental Protection Act shall be substantial compliance with Exhibit A with respect to the installation of equipment as set forth in Sections I and IV B therein."

An application for extension of variances was filed on January 25, 1973 and the new application for extension docketed as Case #73-26. Two interim orders have been entered extending the variances to today, pending resolution of the new proceeding.

We grant the variances as requested, subject to the conditions as hereinafter set forth.

The petition for extension recites the provisions of paragraph 9 of the April 25, 1972 Order above set forth. The work contemplated for the coke quenching station, blast furnace and sinter breaker process stack has been finished. Extension of variance from April 25, 1973 to April 25, 1974 is sought for coke oven operation except charging

(paragraph 9(a)) and charging and any operation of which charging is a part (paragraph 9(e)) and from April 25, 1973 to September 15, 1973 for the sinter process main windbox and pug mill.

The foregoing proposals for extension of variance are consistent with the time schedules as originally contemplated and embodied in the basic stipulation and order of the Board of April 25, 1972. It becomes incumbent upon the Board at this time to ascertain whether "satisfactory progress" has been made towards substantial compliance with a program of replacement and improvement undertaken by the Company. The recommendation of the Environmental Protection Agency proposes allowance of the variances as requested, subject to certain specified conditions which we will comment on later. The petition of the Company, the Agency's recommendation and the testimony brought out at the hearing, all substantiate the facts that substantial progress is being made in the installation and development of the AISI Coke Oven Charging Air Quality Control System and the modification of the batteries necessary to accommodate the new control system. The engineering and development for the AISI control system have been completed and the necessary permits obtained. The larry car has been fabricated and delivered to the plant site. The necessary bonds relating to the installation have been filed. Battery modification including replacement of stand pipes, realignment of the connecting main and charging hole castings and installation or replacement of battery appurtenances, including new control mechanism and charging hole lids are all in progress, but will require an additional year in order to assure completion. A water fogging system has been installed on the coke quench car.

Work rules for this operation have been prepared and put into effect. A door repair station, spare doors, seals and refractories have been provided pursuant to the terms of the basic order. With respect to the sinter plant main windbox, construction has been initiated pursuant to permits and it is contemplated that this work will be completed by September 15, 1973, the outside date pursuant to the original 19-1/2 month contemplated completion program. Bond for this operation has likewise been submitted.

Two principal areas of contention seem to have developed since the rendition of the original order. The first relates to the present quality of the air in Granite City and the second relates to whether the Company has diligently complied with the requirement to submit work rules respecting the coking operation. Various witnesses testified at the hearing with respect to the air quality at Granite City at the present time. To the extent that the quality of the air is a consequence of emissions from those portions of the plant for which variances have been granted, we must recognize that the variances were granted with the view that compliance would not be achieved until the proposed installations were completed. Accordingly, testimony that the emissions from the coke plant do not meet regulatory standards comes as no surprise. The modification and improvement

program is designed to achieve compliance within the dates prescribed. To the extent that the air quality has been deteriorated as a result of emissions from facilities not covered by any variance, our order furnishes no protection and the Company is vulnerable to such enforcement action as may be appropriate.

With respect to the work rules governing the operation of the coke ovens, the record indicates that rules approved by the Agency were not submitted until April 4, 1973. While the record does not indicate wherein the parties differed, it is disappointing that this much time elapsed before work rules agreeable to the Agency were submitted. It is not beyond the realm of likelihood that had the work rules been in effect earlier and properly implemented, much of the complaint about the present air quality would be minimized. However, we must act on what is presently before us and it is manifest that the Company has made satisfactory progress toward the completion of its abatement programs to justify an extension of the variances as sought.

Lastly, we note that the Company has subjected to the conditions proposed by the Agency to which any variance extensions would be subjected. The first is that all applicable conditions contained in the stipulation adopted by the Board shall remain in force and effect. This clearly would be an appropriate condition. The second requires the filing of a report with the Agency within 60 days of the time that overhaul work on A and B batteries is completed, describing the work that was done. We see no reason for the submission of such a report and will not direct it. The third condition directs the Company to provide the Agency with the names of the personnel whom the Agency may contact during working hours to secure information relative to coking time. We do not believe this to be an unreasonable request and counsel has indicated that these names have already been furnished. We will include this as a condition with the variance extensions. Motion of the Company to strike the conditions set forth in the Agency's recommendation is denied.

This opinion constitutes the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the Board.

IT IS THE ORDER of the Pollution Control Board:

1. That variances from the particulate emission regulations of the air pollution regulations of the Pollution Control Board granted on April 25, 1973 and order entered in Case #73-26 be extended with respect to the following facilities for the periods of time indicated:
 - (a) coke oven operation, including transporting coke to quench tower, 12 months, that is, until April 25, 1974, except charging or any operation of which charging is considered a part for purposes of regulation;

(b) Charging and any operation of which charging is considered a part for purposes of regulation, 12 additional months, that is, until April 25, 1974, and so long as all provisions set forth in paragraph 9 of the Order of April 25, 1972 are complied with;

(c) Sinter process main windbox and pug mill, 7-1/2 months, that is, until September 15, 1973.

2. All applicable provisions and conditions set forth in stipulation incorporated in the April 25, 1972 order of the Board, remain in full force and effect.
3. The Company shall provide the Agency with the names of Company's personnel whom the Agency may contact during working hours to secure information relative to coking time.

I, Christan Moffett, Clerk of the Pollution Control Board, certify that the above Opinion and Order was adopted on the 31st day of May, 1973, by a vote of 4 to 0.

Christan Moffett