

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
November 8, 1973

CITY OF FAIRFIELD,)
)
 Petitioner,)
)
 vs.) PCB 73-355
)
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
 Respondent.)

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

On August 17, 1973, Petitioner, the City of Fairfield, filed two Petitions for Variance which have been consolidated. Petitioner operates an electric power generating station located in the City of Fairfield, Wayne County, Illinois.

Petitioner produces power with four coal-fired boilers, four steam turbines, two diesel generators and one interconnection tie line. By this action, Petitioner seeks permission to operate coal-fired boilers #1, #2 and #3 in the event of the most unusual set of circumstances which would shut down the primary generating machines and the interconnection tie line.

Petitioner characterizes the subject boilers as small and obsolete and normally not operated, but which have value for emergency stand-by purposes. Petitioner states that Boilers #1 and #2 have a capacity of 35,000 lbs/hr and are not equipped with control devices. Boiler #3 has a capacity of 65,000 lbs/hr and is equipped with a low efficiency cyclone type dust collector. Boilers #1 and #2 have a particulate emission rate of 1.03 #/MM Btu input. Boiler #3 has a particulate emission rate of 0.752 #/MM Btu input. The allowable particulate emission rate is 0.2 #/MM Btu input.

With a maximum heat input of 63.4 Btu input per hour, the maximum particulate emission rate for boilers #1 and #2 would be 109 lbs/hour. With a maximum heat input of 98 MM Btu per hour, the maximum particulate emission rate for boiler #3 would be 73.6 lbs/hour.

Petitioner states that because of the obsolescence and inefficiency of the subject boilers, the electrical generating costs are very high, which precludes any operation of the boilers except in emergencies. Petitioner estimates the cost of bringing the subject boilers into compliance to be from \$300,000 to \$450,000. This approximation is based upon installation of dust collectors, ash handling systems and new fan and duct work.

We are disposed to grant the variance as requested. It would constitute an unreasonable hardship to require Petitioner to invest from \$300,000 to \$450,000 in order to bring into compliance boilers which would be used infrequently, and possibly never.

We note, however, that an Agency investigator visited Petitioner's facility on August 22, 1973, and observed that boilers #1 and #2 were operating at normal capacity and boiler #3 had been shut down for repairs. Petitioner's electrical demand amounts to approximately 14,000 KW per day, which is capable of being produced without boilers #1, #2 and #3.

The Opinion constitutes the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the Board.

ORDER

IT IS THE ORDER of the Pollution Control Board that Petitioner, City of Fairfield, be granted a variance for a period of one year from the date of this Order, to operate boilers #1, #2 and #3 subject to the following conditions:

1. The subject boilers shall be operated only in unusual, emergency situations wherein the primary generating machines and the interconnection tie line are incapable of producing the power demanded;
2. Petitioner shall file quarterly reports with the Agency. Said reports shall indicate all operations of boilers #1 and/or #2 and/or #3, the date of said operation, kilowatts generated by each generator on each day of operation, generators forced out of service on each day of operation of boilers #1 and/or #2 and/or #3 and the reason for the forced outage and the power demand to supply customers on each day of operation of boilers #1 and/or #2 and/or #3.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois
Pollution Control Board, certify that the above
Opinion and Order was adopted this 8th day of
November, 1973 by a vote of 5 to 0.

Christan L. Moffett