

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
March 15, 1973

EAST SIDE LEVEE AND SANITARY DISTRICT)
a municipal corporation)

v.)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)

PCB 72-497

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

This is a petition requesting a variance from Rules 404(b)(i), 921(d) and 1002 of the Water Regulations. No hearing was held.

The District owns and operates two sewage treatment plants consisting of primary treatment only. They are located in St. Clair and Madison Counties on the east side of the Mississippi River. The Lansdowne Plant is located in the northern part of East St. Louis and discharges directly into the Mississippi River. The Cahokia Plant is located south of East St. Louis and discharges into the Cahokia chute of the Mississippi and is above the river level except during periods of high water.

The Lansdowne plant services an area between East St. Louis and Granite City which includes seven municipalities whose population is around 45,000. About half the load is industrial waste. The Cahokia plant serves around 21,000 people with no industrial waste.

The District's consulting engineers have completed the final plans, drawings and specifications for the construction and operation of a secondary treatment plant at Cahokia. Those plans have been filed with the Agency. The final plans for the Lansdowne plant are expected to be completed around April 1, 1973.

The District is a participant in the Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (SIMAPC) which is charged with development of the area's official water quality management plan. There are alternative plans for regionalization of the area in which the District is located. From investigation of those plans it appears that a delay in construction of the required facilities will occur. A \$50,000 study is currently being conducted to determine the feasibility of treating combined wastes from East St. Louis, Sauget, Lansdowne and Cahokia. Preliminary results of the study have indicated that those

combined wastes do appear to be biologically treatable. Under the regional plan each of the primary treatment plants would be retained with their effluents being transported to the regional secondary plant.

As an alternative to a regional secondary system the proposed participants would build their own secondary plants. The results of the SIMAPC study will determine which alternative to take. As to the relative costs involved, it is estimated that the capital cost of a regional plant would be \$21 million as compared with \$29 million total for separate plants. It is also estimated that over the life of the regional plant's operation and maintenance, savings of around \$30 million could be expected over what it would cost to operate and maintain separate plants.

As we did earlier in the cases of East St. Louis (72-393, October 3, 1972) and Sauget (72-396, 72-407, February 14, 1973) we will grant this variance from Rule 404(b)(i) for one year. We do expect, however, that immediately upon learning the results of the SIMAPC feasibility study the petitioner will take all steps necessary to follow through on whichever alternative is chosen. The Agency recommends that we grant a variance from Rules 921(d) and 1002 so that the petitioner can receive permits for the project prior to approval of their Project Completion Schedule. We find that under the circumstances it would also be appropriate to grant those variances.

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

ORDER

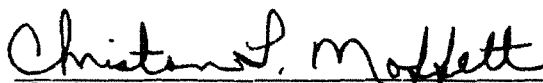
A variance of one year, expiring March 15, 1974, is granted to the petitioner from Rule 404(b)(i) subject to the following conditions:

1. Treatability studies of the wastes in a combined secondary treatment plant shall be completed and reported to the Agency no later than May 1, 1973 by the petitioner.
2. The petitioner shall report monthly to the Board and Agency beginning April 15, 1973 of progress toward establishing a legally founded regional body with authority to construct and operate a regional secondary treatment plant. Such regional body shall be in existence by September 1, 1973.

3. Application for extension of this variance shall be made at least 90 days previous to the expiration date.
4. Project Completion Schedules for necessary facilities shall be filed no later than December 31, 1973.

Petitioner is also granted variances from Rules 921(d) and 1002 of the Water Regulations.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order were adopted on the 15th day of March, 1973 by a vote of 4-0.



Christan L. Moffett, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board

