

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
March 22, 1973

IN THE MATTER OF
DEEP WELL DISPOSAL

)
)
)
)

R71-6

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

On March 3, 1971 we referred the citizen petition which initiated this regulatory proceeding to the Institute for a state-of-the-art report (1 PCB 303).

The report was commissioned by the Institute and issued on February 7, 1972 as "Subsurface Industrial Wastewater Injection in Illinois" (IIEQ Document No. 72-2) authored by Dr. Donald L. Warner of the University of Missouri. The report stresses the need for care in authorizing deep well disposal of wastes. Technical criteria as presently used in Illinois in considering deep well disposal permits are given and would seem susceptible of translation into regulations (see especially pp. 62-63 of the report).

Inasmuch as the original citizen petition did not propose regulations but merely requested inquiry hearings we are thus left with no proposal before us to consider. The threshold question of whether sufficient need exists for specific regulations for deep well disposal is one on which we should like to have the Environmental Protection Agency's opinion as well as any other interested groups or agencies.

Therefore we will ask the Agency to review IIEQ Document No. 72-2 as well as the technical criteria of the Committee on the Subsurface Injection of Wastewaters of the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) and tell us whether they feel that regulations are needed in this field. If the Agency does find a need for regulations then we would appreciate receiving a draft proposal upon which hearings could be held. We ask for an Agency response on the need for regulations within 60 days.

We would appreciate comments on the same matter from the State Geological Survey, the State Water Survey, the Department of Mines and Minerals and the original petitioners.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Interim Opinion and Order was adopted on the 22nd day of March, 1973 by a vote of 4-0.

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