

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
April 18, 1974

THE NESTLE COMPANY, INC.)	
)	
)	
v.)	PCB 74-30
)	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)	
)	

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

A variance petition was filed on January 22, 1974. The Nestle Company ("Nestle") has an instant tea factory in Granite City employing 192 persons.

About 5,500 lbs./hr. of tea leaves are processed. This results in from 16,000 lbs./hr. to 17,000 lbs./hr. of wet and spent tea leaves at 70%-80% moisture. To this is added about 500 lbs./hr. of wood chips resulting from the pulverization of the used tea leaf chests. All of these wastes are then fluidized into a Dorr-Oliver incinerator which has an air preheater and overfire burner.

The waste gases from the incinerator go to a Babcock and Wilcox boiler, rated at 40,000 lbs./hr. of steam, and then exit to the atmosphere 55 feet above grade.

The petition as originally filed requests relief from Rule 203(e) of the Air Pollution Regulations until a high energy venturi scrubber is installed on the stack discharge about June 17, 1974 with a stack test to be furnished by July 1, 1974.

On February 20, 1973 an amendment to the petition was filed shortening the time required for the scrubber installation to March 25, 1974 with a stack test to be furnished by April 15, 1974 (the petition erroneously states "March 15, 1974").

The hardship alleged if the variance is not granted is the need to supply some 15,000 to 20,000 lbs./hr. of steam for process needs 5 days a week, 24 hours a day, and 50 weeks a year. The boiler has no provision for auxiliary fire and can only get its heat requirements from the incinerator.

The reasons for the delay seem to lie in difficulties in scheduling stack tests. Research Cotrell was to do them in June 1973 but because of a 5-week plant shutdown not done until October 2-3, 1973. The forced draft fan was then removed to reduce air flow and another stack test was performed December 11-13, 1973. After that, the high energy venturi scrubber was ordered at a cost of \$36,220.

The December 12-13, 1973 stack tests show a dust loading of 0.30 and 0.29 grains/SCF or 28.61 and 24.19 lbs./hr. of particulate. Rule 203(e)(2) has a standard of 0.08 grains/SCF or about 27% of what is being discharged.

The Agency recommendation filed March 12, 1974 is for denial on the grounds that the delays were self imposed. The plant has industrial areas on three sides but a dense residential area is about 300 feet away to the South, according to the Agency. Granite City's air quality, measured at the City Hall 1800 ft. distant is 97 ug/m³ compared to the U.S. and Illinois standard of 75 ug/m³. These data are for the first nine months of 1973.

The Agency interviewed four nearby residents and states that while they have noticed some odor and/or "tea colored" powder they favor granting the variance.

An alternative that was not discussed by Nestle is that of landfilling its waste until the scrubber is operational.

We grant the variance. The March 25, 1974 date for scrubber installation is past and the facility is probably now in compliance. While we could wish for a better explanation of the delays; they appear to be partly due to the removal of the forced draft fan and the air preheater installation. The two sets of stack tests, which Nestle performed, were expensive. We feel there has been a good faith showing of effort toward control.

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

ORDER

1. Variance is granted from Rule 203(e)(2) of the Air Regulations until April 15, 1974.
2. Nestle shall have performed and shall submit to the Agency a stack test after the new scrubber is operational by May 31, 1974.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order were adopted on the 18th day of April, 1974 by a vote of 5-0.

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