

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

June 21, 1973

MRS. LORETTA JEFFRESS,)
)
 Petitioner,)
)
 vs.) PCB 73-167
)
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
 Respondent.)

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

Petitioner seeks a variance from a ban on further sewer connections in a Madison County area served by the Godfrey Township Utility Board. The ban was imposed by the Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Rule 921(a) of Chapter 3: Water Pollution Regulations. Petitioner's proposed connection would be tributary to the Black Creek Lagoon, which is a single-cell lagoon and has a design average capacity of .09 MGD. The Agency estimates that the plant is currently serving almost double its design average capacity. Chlorination facilities at the lagoon are in operation. The lagoon discharges into Black Creek but no information is available concerning the condition of Black Creek in the vicinity of the lagoon outfall. Godfrey has failed to maintain the effluent quality required by Rule 404(a) of Chapter 3.

Petitioner's home is now on a septic tank system. Discharges from the septic tank constantly flood her basement and the sump pump runs almost continuously. In the thirty days prior to the filing of her variance request she emptied the septic tank three times.

The Agency recommends that the petition for variance be denied unless Petitioner can provide documentation that a public health hazard exists which cannot be eliminated through improved maintenance or relatively minor repairs of the septic tank system.

Petitioner states that the surrounding area has turned into a cess-pool and has submitted photographs showing the septic fluid on the surface of the ground. A local contractor of septic tank sewer

systems has said that it would not be feasible to correct the situation by repair or by replacement of the septic system because the soil is mainly composed of clay which will not accept any more water. Raw sewage flowing on the surface of the ground is proof enough of a health hazard. We will grant the variance for the sewer connection so that this health hazard can be eliminated at an early date.

ORDER

The variance is hereby allowed so that Petitioner may proceed with the necessary steps to connect to the sewer system operated by the Godfrey Township Utility Board.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order was adopted this 21st day of June, 1973 by a vote of 4 to 0.

Christan L. Moffett