

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
January 30, 1973

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)
)
) #72-163
 v.)
)
)
 VILLAGE OF BEECHER)

HERMAN R. TAVINS, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, APPEARED ON BEHALF
OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GEORGE M. BUTTELL, APPEARED ON BEHALF OF VILLAGE OF BEECHER

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (BY SAMUEL T. LAWTON, JR.):

Complaint was filed against the Village of Beecher alleging violations of Section 18 of the Environmental Protection Act and Rule 3.13 of the Public Water Supply Systems Rules and Regulations, in the conduct of the Village's public water supply facilities. Specifically, the Village was charged with failure to provide clean water in adequate quantities and of satisfactory mineral character, and has failed to provide adequate treatment for excessive iron content contained in the water. The Village has stipulated that the iron content exceeds the applicable limit of .3 ppm.

Hearing was held on the complaint on September 21, 1972 and continued to December 14, 1972, in order to enable Respondent to make engineering studies to correct the deficiencies noted. At the December 14, 1972 hearing, a report from the engineering firm of R. W. Robinson & Associates was submitted into evidence (Respondent's Exhibit 2) setting forth four alternative methods for reducing the iron content of the water. The Village represented that it would determine which alternative method would be adopted by the Village.

The case presents no issue of fact nor are we advised at this point which method proposed has been accepted by the Village. Respondent's Exhibit 2 sets forth that the present water supply and storage facilities of the Village consist of two wells and pumps rated at approximately 375 gallons per minute each and a 100,000 gallon elevated tank. Water consumption is based on a population of 1,800, which on the basis of maximum daily use of 150 gallons per person per day would equal 270,000 gallons. The pumping equipment is adequate to provide well in excess of this estimate.

The report continues as follows:

"To bring the iron content of the water to the permissible standard as established by the E. P. A. we recommend the installation of iron removal equipment at the water source, the wells. If it is decided to install iron removal equipment, then one of the following projects should be undertaken.

- A. Treatment of one of the wells using the existing well room to house the equipment.
- B. Treatment of both wells using the existing well room and part of the fire department building to house the equipment.
- C. Treatment of one or both wells and housing the equipment in a new building.
- D. Drilling a new well and constructing a new treatment plant at the site.

The following are our comments and approximate construction cost estimates, including engineering fees, for the projects outlined above.

Project "A" would involve the installation of four (4) 6'-6" diameter iron removal filters in the existing well room of the municipal building including necessary piping revisions, new reinforced concrete floor and electrical work. The estimated cost for this project is \$82,500.00.

Project "B" would involve approximately twice the construction plus additional piping as outlined in "A" and is estimated to cost approximately \$170,000.00. However, the entire truck bay adjacent to the well room would have to be utilized.

Project "C" would require the purchase of property near the wells and the construction of a building to house the equipment. Depending on whether one or both wells are to be treated the cost estimate is between \$110,000.00 and \$230,000.00 which does not include the cost of property.

Project "D" involves the drilling of a new well (800 to 1,000 gallon per minute capacity) and construction of a treatment plant. This project would cost approximately \$300,000.00 plus the cost of purchasing property.

You will note the least expensive project would be to treat the water from one well and house the equipment in the existing well room.


This project would treat approximately twice the maximum days use as we outlined earlier in this report. The other well would be utilized if the demand on the system required it but the water would by-pass the filters."

On the present state of the record, we do not believe it incumbent upon the Board to direct which alternative the Village should pursue. We are only concerned with compliance with the relevant regulations and, accordingly, order the Village to take immediate steps to bring their water facility into compliance. We will direct that the Village select which program it intends to pursue and obtain the requisite permits from the Agency by May 1, 1973, and further direct that the Village be in compliance with all statutory and regulatory provisions with respect to the operation of a public water facility by November 1, 1973. On the state of the record, the imposition of a penalty does not appear warranted.

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

IT IS THE ORDER of the Pollution Control Board the the Village of Beecher shall apply for and obtain the requisite permits from the Environmental Protection Agency for construction of its public water supply facility by May 1, 1973, and shall be in full compliance with all statute and regulatory provisions with respect to the conduct and operation of a public water supply facility by November 1, 1973. Reports on the progress of its compliance program shall be made monthly to the Environmental Protection Agency, the first to be filed no later than June 1, 1973.

I, Christan Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the above Opinion and Order was adopted on the 30th day of January, 1973, by a vote of 3 to 0.


Christan J. Moffett

