

Illinois Pollution Control Board

May 30, 1972

CITY OF ARCOLA)
)
 v.) PCB 72-18
)
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)

Mr. Voris D. Seaman for Petitioner
Mr. Dennis K. Muncy for the Environmental Protection Agency

Opinion of the Board (by Mr. Aldrich):

On January 10, 1972 the City of Arcola filed a petition requesting a variance from the July 1, 1972, date for complying with the water quality standards of SWB-14. A hearing was held May 17, 1972.

On March 7, 1972, the Board adopted Section 404, Chapter 3, "Water Regulations", which in effect postponed the date of meeting the effluent standards in SWB-14 until December 31, 1973, whereas Arcola anticipates completion of planned improvements in its sewage treatment facilities by November 1, 1973, thus mootng the need for Petitioner's variance request. However, the Agency's recommendation contained a number of allegations respecting existing violations, which we construe as a counter-complaint. The hearing brought to light: 1) that a single breakdown in chlorination had occurred which continued 2 days and 4 hours; 2) that the sewage plant operator is receiving additional training at Petitioner's expense to qualify him to operate the plant; 3) that the City has examined its sewer lines for deficiencies in structure. The only problem of immediate concern is that the holding lagoon to which the treated sludge is pumped is nearly full of settleable solids and no site has been found that will accept the sludge which must soon be removed. Though we have said that the variance request is moot, the sludge disposal problem until solved, involves a threat of pollution. We support the position of the Agency that the city must diligently pursue the matter and find a suitable site at the earliest practicable date.

In a pre-hearing conference the Agency and City reached agreement on the main points requiring action by the City. They are covered in the Order.

ORDER

1. The City of Arcola shall have a qualified operator for its sewage treatment plant and provide him with all necessary training.
2. The City of Arcola shall obtain any necessary equipment for the plant's laboratory.
3. The City of Arcola shall complete the study of infiltration sources to the sewer system and remedy them insofar as possible.
4. The City of Arcola shall diligently pursue the matter of a suitable disposal site for the sludge from its lagoon and report its plan to the Agency at the earliest practicable date and in any case before the threat of overflow of the lagoon is imminent.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above opinion this 30th day of May, 1972, by a vote of 5-0.

Christan L. Moffett