

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
December 19, 1974

CITY OF STAUNTON )  
PETITIONER )  
 )  
 )  
v. ) PCB 74-345  
 )  
 )  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY )  
RESPONDENT )

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

This action involves a variance request by the City of Staunton for relief from the 0.02 mg/l effluent standard for copper in Rule 203 (f) of Chapter 3 of the Board's Rules and Regulations, so as to apply copper sulphate as an algicide in its water storage reservoir. The Petition was filed September 23, 1974.

The Agency filed its Recommendation November 22, 1974. In the Recommendation the Agency suggests the Board deny this Petition as moot.

No hearing was held.

The reservoir contains 105 acres. It is used as storage in the city's public water supply system. Copper sulphate has been used in the lake since 1925 as a method of eliminating algae from the water. When such algae are allowed to remain in the water, they produce an unpleasant taste to the users.

The city reports no problems with aquatic life in the lake when copper sulphate is applied. It is alleged that the lake is used for fishing.

The city proposes to have bi-annual applications for algae control.

The Agency states that copper sulphate treatment has been a standard method of alleviating algae problems in water reservoirs for 45 years. In 1973 Dr. Charles Muchmore of Southern Illinois University issued a report to the Board stating that after testing other methods of algae treatment, including biodegradable algicides, copper sulphate is still the best available treatment.

The Agency estimates that with a 700-pound application to the 361,700,000 gallon reservoir, the maximum copper levels in the water should not exceed 0.06 mg/l.

The Agency notes that there have been applications of copper sulphate into the reservoir in the past two years, for which no variance was applied.

The Agency investigation elicited from the city that this variance is for applications to be made in 1975. There will be either two 700-pound applications or bi-monthly applications between April and October.

On November 22, 1974, the Board adopted Chapter 6 of our Rules and Regulations relating to public water supplies. Rule 203 of that Chapter requires public water supply operators to apply for and receive a permit to apply algicides to public water supplies from the Agency. In adopting this Rule, the Board felt that the Agency was best suited to supervise algicide treatments. This Rule is now in effect, and so we feel that the proper course is to dismiss this action and suggest that the Petitioner file a permit application with the Agency.

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

ORDER

IT IS THE ORDER of the Pollution Control Board that this Petition be dismissed as moot.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the above Opinion and Order was adopted by the Board on the 19th day of December, 1974, by a vote of 4 to 0.

Christan L. Moffett (cl)