

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
January 14 , 1976

M & S WOOD AND PAPER CORPORATION,)
)
) Petitioner,)
)
) v.) PCB 75-417
)
) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
) Respondent.)

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

Petitioner, M & S Wood and Paper Corporation (M & S), seeks a one-year extension of a variance granted in PCB 72-236 on October 10, 1972, and extended by PCB 73-76 and PCB 74-243, from the provisions of Rule 502 of the Air Pollution Regulations (Chapter 2) which prohibits open burning except as otherwise provided by Part V: Open Burning, of Chapter 2. M & S operates a paper recycling and wood reclaiming business which processes from 20 to 25 tons of trade wastes daily at a site in Boone County, Illinois, one mile east of Belvidere, Illinois, and outside of any landscape waste open burning restricted area, as such areas are defined in Rule 503(c)(4) of Chapter 2. Boone County is not included in any major metropolitan area in Illinois or any adjacent state.

The wood portion of the waste consists of wood pallets, dividers and crating lumber; however, chipping of these materials for recycle is not practical because of the presence of nails, wire and metal strapping which would damage the chipping equipment. Consequently, pursuant to the prior variances granted by the Board, M & S burns such material on site with the emissions controlled by utilization of an air curtain destructor. The alternatives to use of the air curtain destructor in this instance are disposal of the wood by landfill at a cost of \$25.00 per truckload (of two tons) as opposed to the current method of burning at a cost of about \$6.00 per truckload. The second alternative to the air curtain destructor would be installation of a substantially more expensive incinerator capable of meeting the requirements of Rules 202(b), 203(e)(5), and 206(b). The manufacturer of the air curtain destructor states that smoke emission from the control device is Ringelmann #1 (20% opacity) or less; the requirement of Rule 202(b) is Ringelmann 1.5 or 30% opacity.

The Agency recommends the granting of the variance. On November 4, 1975, an Agency representative visited the site of the air curtain

destructor and observed the destructor to be well maintained and operating properly. Complaints were not received by the Agency concerning Petitioner's operation from the Boone County Sheriff's Office, the Chief of the Boone County Rural Fire Protection District #2, or from Farm and Fleet, the closest commercial operation to the site.

The Board feels the variance should be extended because the benefits from the Petitioner's recycling operations outweigh the slight negative environmental impact. The grant of this variance is conditioned upon the fact that Petitioner continue to operate the site in a safe and proper manner. By limiting operation to daylight hours when dispersion conditions are favorable any adverse smoke effects, however slight, will be further minimized.

We would note that the Chapter 2 Open Burning Rules, specifically Rule 504, provides for open burning permits from the Agency in certain instances. Rule 504(a)(4) provides that an Agency open burning permit may be granted for the open burning of landscape wastes with the aid of an air curtain destructor if such burning does not occur within 1,000 feet of any residential or other populated area. It is further noted that landscape wastes are included within the general definition of trade wastes.

In the initial variance to M & S (M & S Wood and Paper Corporation v. EPA, PCB 72-236, 5 PCB 637, 1972), the Board granted the variance "as an experiment to determine the adequacy of the air curtain destructor as a substitute for more expensive incinerators in the burning of clean wood that does not qualify as landscape waste. If the experiment proves successful, we shall be pleased to entertain a proposal by the Agency to amend the regulations to allow such burning, outside critical areas, upon permit from the Agency."

After three years of operation of air curtain destructors at M & S and other sites throughout the State, sufficient information to justify an amendment to Rule 504(a)(4) should be now available and we would again entertain such a proposal rather than require M & S and others similarly situated to petition for renewals of their variance.

This Opinion constitutes the findings of fact and conclusions of law by the Board in this matter.

ORDER

IT IS THE ORDER OF THE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD than M & S Wood and Paper Corporation be granted variance from the Air Pollution Control Regulations until September 19, 1976 to burn certain wood wastes at its Boone County site, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon application and proper proof and subject to the following conditions:

1. Only landscape waste and clean unpainted lumber shall be disposed of in the air curtain destructor. All other lumber and debris shall be separated prior to burning and disposed of by some other means. Under no circumstances shall Petitioner conduct any open burning or incineration of materials not in the air curtain destructor.
2. Petitioner shall conduct the housekeeping at its facility so as to eliminate the possibility of illegal fires caused by sparks igniting litter and nearby waste materials.
3. An operator must be in attendance at all times when wood waste is being burned.
4. The feed to the air curtain destructor shall be adjusted so as to prevent any visible emissions from the destructor above 10% opacity.
5. Material used to promote combustion shall not be lower in quality than #2 fuel oil.
6. Burning shall be conducted only on days when the wind velocity is between 5 and 25 miles per hour.
7. Burning shall be conducted only between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
8. The burning site shall be provided with adequate fire protection and with such equipment as necessary to control accidental fires.
9. The air curtain destructor shall be operated in accordance with the manufacturer's operating instructions.
10. Petitioner shall be subject to the Agency's standard conditions for open burning (APC-171 as revised 7/73).
11. Within 30 days of the date of the adoption of this Order, Petitioner shall complete and submit to the Environmental Protection Agency, at the following address, the following certification:

Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Air Pollution Control
Control Program Coordinator
2200 Churchill Road
Springfield, Illinois 62706

I, (We), _____ having read the Order of the Illinois Pollution Control Board in PCB 75-417, understand and accept said Order, realizing that such acceptance renders all terms and conditions thereto binding and enforceable.

SIGNED

TITLE

DATE

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order were adopted on the 14th day of January, 1976 by a vote of 4-0.

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