

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
October 31, 1972

OLIN CORPORATION, a Virginia corporation.)
)
)
 vs.) PCB 72-357
)
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)

Patrick O. Boyle, Attorney for Petitioner
Thomas J. Immel, Assistant Attorney General for the EPA

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

Petitioner, the manufacturer of military flares, missile and rocket igniters and jet aircraft starter cartridges, seeks a one year extension of a variance which was granted by this Board in decisions found at PCB71-60 and PCB 71-371. The variance, which is to expire November 24, 1972, authorizes the open burning of explosive wastes by Olin Corporation on 290 acres of strip mined land in Williamson County, Illinois. Both parties refer to this as a "remote" area.

The materials used in Olin's production include explosives, pyrotechnics, propellants and various inert components. About 2 percent of this hazardous material becomes scrap along with packaging material which has become contaminated and is treated as explosive waste. The actual amounts of waste to be burned vary according to production volume. Maximum amounts to be burned in any week are:

Ammonium nitrate propellant	300 lbs.
Double base propellant	40 lbs.
Single base propellant	20 lbs.
Pyrotechnic flare mix (high magnesium content)	1500 lbs.
Fuel Oil	Sufficient to immerse pyrotechnic mix as required for safety reasons
Contaminated packaging and transfer materials	100 lbs.

The EPA calculates that this burning would cause weekly particulate emissions of 822.3 lbs., CO emissions of 516 lbs. and NO emissions of 435 lbs.

These materials constitute a severe fire and explosion hazard. Open burning has been acknowledged to be the only safe method of disposal

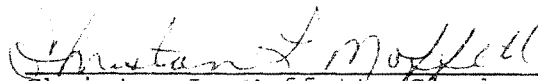
Failure to dispose of the wastes on a regular basis would result in the closing of the Petitioners' manufacturing plant.

Pursuant to the existing variance Olin Corp. is designing and constructing an experimental incinerator for the disposal of the explosive wastes. The anticipated completion date of July 1972 was not met because severe flooding in Pennsylvania delayed the shipment of necessary incinerator components. The Variance Petition estimated the completion date as October 1, 1972. The EPA indicated that completion was expected in September 1972. Petitioner needs five months for testing of the incinerator following its construction.

No reason is suggested for extending the variance a full year. The EPA recommends that the variance be extended through March 31, 1973 or until the incinerator is operational, whichever is sooner. We believe the eighteen week extension is sufficient on the record before us. If problems are encountered during testing which make a further extension necessary those problems should be brought to our attention.

It is the order of the Pollution Control Board that the Variance granted in PCB 71-60 and subsequently extended in PCB 71-371 be further extended through March 31, 1973, or until the incinerator is operational, whichever time is shorter, subject to all conditions of the Board's Orders in the two previous decisions.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order was adopted this 3/5th day of October, 1972 by a vote of 5 to 0.


Christan L. Moffett, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board