

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

April 4, 1974

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY,)	
Home Laundry Division,)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	PCB 74-24
)	
)	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,)	
Respondent.)	

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by Dr. Odell)

On January 18, 1974, Petitioner filed with this Board a petition for variance to operate its synthetic enamel paint system in its plant at 5660 West Taylor Street, Chicago, Illinois, in excess of the applicable standards of Rule 205(f) of the Illinois Air Pollution Regulations (Chapter Two) effective December 31, 1973. Petitioner seeks a variance to July 1, 1974, to allow it to develop with its suppliers an alternative formulation for an exempt solvents program to replace the compliance program previously approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency), which program cannot be implemented now due to the lack of supply of exempt solvents for its paint formulation.

Petitioner manufactures washing machines and dryers. Synthetic enamel paint is applied to washing machines and dryers in a process comprising a prime spray booth, electrostatic spray booth, reinforcing booth, flash-off tunnel, and bake oven.

On March 12, 1974, a Recommendation was received from the Agency. Petitioner has an operating permit, I.D. No. 31600AZS, which was issued by the Agency on August 16, 1973. This permit expires March 31, 1974.

"Petitioner submitted a plan to bring its operation into compliance with Rule 205(f) along with its application for an operating permit. The compliance plan was undertaken to bring under control photochemical solvent emissions from Petitioner's paint application process. The plan involved the substitution of exempt solvents for photochemical solvents. Petitioner has been unable to obtain the exempt solvents, specifically hexyl acetate, isobutyl acetate, and butyl cellosolve. Because of the unavailability of these components, Petitioner continues to use photochemical solvents in its process.

"The emissions of photochemically reactive organic materials

from Petitioner's process are as follows:

	<u>Calculated</u>	<u>Allowable</u>
Prime booth	14.3 lbs/hr	8 lbs/hr
Electrostatic booth	15.3 lbs/hr	8 lbs/hr
Reinforcing booth	29.4 lbs/hr	8 lbs/hr
Flash-off tunnel	41.5 lbs/hr	8 lbs/hr
Bake oven	27.7 lbs/hr	8 lbs/hr

"Other possible control methods have been considered by Petitioner and rejected. An afterburner for fuel incineration would require 600,000 cubic feet of natural gas per day, based on a 50% recovery. It would take from 18 months to 2 years to install. Carbon absorption would also take an estimated two years to install and complete and it would be inefficient. Water-based paints and hi-solids paints have not yet been developed to the point where they meet Petitioner's needs. Petitioner has assigned its technical staff to work in coordination with its suppliers and develop a paint having less than 20 volumetric percent organic material in accordance with Rule 205(f)(2)(D). This is envisioned as a long-range project.

"Petitioner is presently working on the development of an alternative formula for an exempt solvents program. Petitioner has started shop trials to develop proper blends of exempt solvents and exempt paints. Petitioner expects this program to be completed on or before July 1, 1974.

"Petitioner is in compliance with Rule 203(a) and 203(b) of the Illinois Air Pollution Control Regulations.

"Petitioner's facility is located in an area of heavy industry. The Agency has received no citizen complaints. . . .

"Petitioner has demonstrated that immediate compliance would pose an arbitrary and unreasonable hardship, since the exempt solvents it had planned to use are unavailable."

Petitioner's planned control program is more than adequate to achieve compliance with Rule 205(f) and the timetable is reasonable. We grant Petitioner's variance to enable it to develop an alternative paint formulation with exempt solvents.

The Federal Energy Office has established mandatory allocation of petrochemical feedstocks to petrochemical producers -- including solvent manufacturers -- in a quantity equal to 100 percent of the producer's current requirements (Fed. Reg. Vol. 39, No. 10, Part III, Subpart 211J, January 15, 1974). Petitioner should utilize such exempt solvents as they become available.

ORDER

Petitioner is hereby granted a variance from Rule 205(f) of Chapter Two, Illinois Air Pollution Regulations, for the period from the date of filing of the Petition in this matter until July 1, 1974, subject to the following conditions:

1. Petitioner shall immediately notify the Agency if any deviation from the compliance timetable occurs.
2. Petitioner shall submit a progress report on June 1, 1974, to:

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

This report shall contain the following information:

- (a) Monthly amounts of exempt and non-exempt solvent formulations used since the beginning of this variance.
 - (b) Status of program to achieve compliance with Rule 205(f) of Chapter Two by July 1, 1974.
3. Petitioner shall utilize as much exempt solvent formulations as can be furnished by its suppliers.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify that the above Opinion and Order was adopted on the 4th day of April, 1974, by a vote of 5 to 0.


Christan L. Moffett, Clerk