

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
March 20, 1980

VILLAGE OF ELBURN,)
)
 Petitioner,)
)
 v.) PCB 80-5
)
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
 Respondent.)

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by Dr. Satchell):

This matter comes before the Board upon a variance petition filed January 8, 1980 by the Village of Elburn (Elburn). The Petitioner requests for its public water supply filter backwash effluent a variance from the 2.0 mg/l standard for iron and the 15.0 mg/l standard for total suspended solids (TSS) contained in Rule 408(a) of Chapter 3: Water Pollution. On February 27, 1980 the Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) recommended that the variance be granted subject to conditions. The hearing was waived and no public comment has been received.

Elburn provides water service to 1450 residents in Kane County. It has three wells: Well #3 is a 1300 foot deep well which is the primary supply; Well #1 is the secondary source; Well #2 is used only in case of failure of the other wells or excessive demand. It is 153 feet deep and was built in 1937. When it was used on a regular basis it had a capacity of 140,000 gallons per day. It has a high iron content. Apparently there is a filter system for Well #2 at the corner of North and First Streets, Elburn. Backwash from the filter system is discharged into a field tile which discharges at an unknown point to a tributary of Blackberry Creek which is tributary to the Fox River. Petitioner states that it has NPDES permit No. IL 0051594 for this discharge.

The petition appears to request a variance for the discharge for the Well #2 treatment plant only. Petitioner states that Well #2 has not been operated in the previous year and that backwashing of filters has been done every three months for routine maintenance. This results in a discharge of 4500 gallons containing .8 to .9 ppm (mg/l) iron. No values are given for TSS. The Agency believes the backwash should be higher in iron but has no data since Elburn has never filed discharge monitoring reports. The value for iron is within the limits set by Rule 408(a). No estimate of the backwash in the event of actual use of Well #2 is offered.

Elburn states that in 1973 an engineering firm advised it that the backwash violated the effluent standards. This is insufficient to demonstrate a current need for a variance. Elburn further states that it cannot discharge the backwash to its sewage treatment plant because it is on restricted status. However, the Agency has no record of such restricted status. The Board does not favor the grant of variances to cover only emergency situations. The petition will therefore be dismissed.

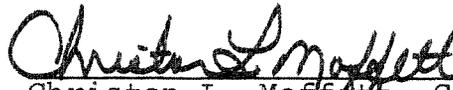
This Opinion constitutes the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law in this matter.

ORDER

The petition is dismissed without prejudice.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order were adopted on the 20th day of March, 1980 by a vote of 4-0.



Christan L. Moffett, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board