

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
March 3, 1971

In the matter of)
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DEEP WELL DISPOSAL)

#R 71-6

Opinion and Order of the Board (by Mr. Currie):

This is a citizen petition, supported with an impressive background statement, asking the Board to hold a hearing on deep well disposal of waste products and to conduct a study of the entire area of underground pollution.

We agree that deep well disposal, and underground pollution generally, deserve serious study, and we welcome this petition. Under section 13 of the Environmental Protection Act we have authority to adopt regulations for the purpose of controlling threats of underground water pollution, whether from deep well disposal or from other causes. Under section 28 any group of 200 citizens may require the Board to hold hearings on a rule-making proposal if certain conditions are met.

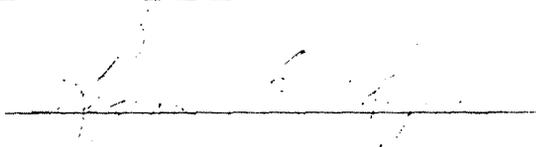
Since the present petition proposes no regulation for our consideration but asks that we conduct an inquiry, section 28 is inapplicable. Under the Board's Procedural Rule 213 we have authority to conduct inquiry hearings, and we have authorized one such hearing on our own motion (#R70-17, DuPage County Regionalization). In the present case, however, we believe the first need is for a state-of-the-art study by the Institute for Environmental Quality to enable us to fashion a proposed regulation on which to hold hearings at a later date. Under section 6 of the statute such studies are one of the essential purposes for which the Institute was set up.

We therefore shall refer a copy of the petition to the Institute with the request that such a study be conducted and a report made to the Board, with or without specific proposals for regulations, as expeditiously as is consistent with thorough

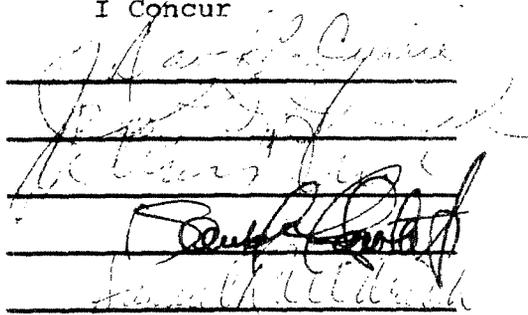
research and with the Institute's other responsibilities. We shall retain jurisdiction over the cause for such further proceedings as may be appropriate.

It is so ordered.

I, Regina E. Ryan, Clerk of the Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above Opinion and Order this 3/11 day of March, 1971



I Concur



I Dissent

