

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
May 21, 2026

PHILLIPS 66 COMPANY,)
)
 Petitioner,)
)
 v.) PCB 26-58
) (Variance - Air)
 ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)
 PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
 Respondent.)

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by A. Tin):

On May 7, 2026, Phillips 66 Company (Phillips) petitioned for relief from Board regulations governing nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions for two process heaters at the Wood River Refinery located in Roxana, Madison County (Facility). Phillips seeks a variance from compliance dates in 35 Ill. Adm. Code 217.152(e) and Appendix I of Part 217 applicable to an HTR-SMR Steam Methane Reformer (SMR Heater) and Rectified Absorber Unit Heater (RAU Heater). This order finds that the petition meets the Board’s filing and content requirements. Therefore, the Board accepts the petition.

PHILLIPS’ PETITION MEETS BOARD REQUIREMENTS

The Board will accept a petition for variance if it meets the procedural and content requirements of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 104.204. At this stage, the Board does not evaluate the merits of the requested relief.

Phillips identifies the regulations from which relief is sought, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 217.152(e) and Appendix I of Part 217, which establish compliance dates for certain process heaters subject to NO_x reasonably available control technology (RACT) requirements adopted in In the Matter of: Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 217, Nitrogen Oxides Emissions, R25-17, and became effective April 23, 2025. Pet. at 1, 3.

Phillips identifies the SMR Heater and the RAU Heater as the emission units subject to the requested variance and describes its operations at the Facility. Pet. at 1-2, 7-8.

Phillips states that compliance with the current deadlines would require installation of monitoring and testing equipment outside of scheduled maintenance turnarounds, when the emission units are not operating to safely perform the work, resulting in additional shutdowns and increased capital expenditures. Pet. at 6, 14-16; Exh. 1, Aff. of Megan Lipscomb at 2-6. Phillips further states that the relevant maintenance turnarounds for both units were rescheduled after adoption of the amended regulations. Pet. at 1, 7, 13-15.

Phillips proposes compliance plans for each unit. For the SMR Heater, Phillips proposes installation of a continuous emissions monitoring system (CEMS) during a scheduled turnaround, followed by compliance with Part 217. Pet. at 6, 13, 16-17. For the RAU Heater, Phillips proposes either decommissioning the unit during a scheduled turnaround or, if the unit remains in operation, installing stack test ports and conducting required performance testing. Pet. at 11, 15, 17.

Phillips provides information regarding projected NO_x emissions and states that the requested extension of the compliance dates will not result in exceedances of the applicable emissions limitations under 35 Ill. Adm. Code 217, Subpart F. Pet. at 12, 18-19, 21. Phillips further states that the requested relief does not extend compliance into additional ozone seasons. Pet. at 21.

Phillips supports its petition with technical information and an affidavit verifying the facts contained in the petition. Pet.; Exhs. 1-5.

The Board finds that Phillips' petition satisfies the filing requirements of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 104.204. At this stage, the Board makes no determination regarding the merits of the petition or whether Phillips has demonstrated entitlement to the requested relief. Through an order of its own or its assigned hearing officer, the Board may require Phillips to provide additional information concerning the petition.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Phillips must publish notice of its petition in a newspaper of general circulation in Madison County within 14 days after filing the petition. 415 ILCS 5/37(a) (2024); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 104.214. Phillips' publication deadline is Thursday, May 21, 2026. Within 21 days after publication, Phillips must file with the Board a certification of publication, including the date of publication and a copy of the published notice. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 104.214(e).

On May 15, 2026, Phillips filed a certificate of publication of notice in *The Telegraph* of Madison County on May 9, 2026. The Board finds that Phillips has provided timely publication of notice that meets the contents requirements of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 104.214(d).

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) must file its recommendation concerning the requested variance within 45 days after the filing of the petition, or at least 30 days before any scheduled hearing, whichever is earlier. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 104.216. IEPA's 45-day deadline falls on Sunday, June 21, 2026. Because that date falls on a weekend, the deadline is extended to the next business day, Monday, June 22, 2026, pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(d). Within 14 days after service of IEPA's recommendation, Phillips may file a response or amend its petition. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 104.220.

Phillips has waived its right to a hearing under 35 Ill. Adm. Code 104.204(n). The Board will hold a hearing if the IEPA or another person files an objection to the requested variance within 21 days after publication of notice, or if the Board determines in its discretion that a hearing is necessary.

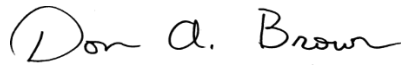
The assigned hearing officer is responsible for guiding the parties toward prompt resolution of this matter through status calls and hearing officer orders as appropriate. Any hearings, if necessary, will be scheduled and completed consistently with the applicable statutory decision deadline, which only Phillips may extend by waiver. 415 ILCS 5/38(a) (2024); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 104.232. If the Board does not take final action by the statutory decision deadline, Phillips may deem the requested variance granted for a period not to exceed one year. See 415 ILCS 5/38(a) (2024).

CONCLUSION

The Board finds that Phillips' petition meets the filing and content requirements of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 104.204. Therefore, the Board accepts the petition and directs that the matter proceed in accordance with this Order and applicable law.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on May 21, 2026, by a vote of 4-0.



Don A. Brown, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board