

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
August 18, 1988

COMMONWEALTH EDISON)
DRESDEN POWER STATION,)
)
Petitioner,)
)
v.) PCB 88-128
)
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)
PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
Respondent.)

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by J.D. Dumelle):

This matter comes before the Board upon the August 17, 1988, filing of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's (Agency) "Provisional Variance Agency Recommendation." The Recommendation urges the Board to grant the request subject to certain conditions.

On August 9, 1988, Petitioner, Commonwealth Edison, Dresden Power Station (Dresden), filed a request for provisional variance from the limitations set forth at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.211 and Part 303. Dresden is a nuclear-fueled electrical generating facility located near Morris, Illinois, with two boiling water reactors providing a maximum capacity of 1623 megawatts of electricity. Circulating water used to cool and condense the steam from the generating process is discharged to the Illinois River after passing through the cooling pond.

Petitioner's NPDES permit requires discharge cooling pond blowdown using an indirect open cycle cooling mode from June 15 through September 30. The temperature of plant discharges shall not exceed 32.2°C (90°F) more than 10% of the time and may never exceed 33.9°C (93°F).

The petition for provisional variance avers that severe drought and extremely hot weather, low river flows, elevated ambient river temperatures and decreased heat dissipation have, in various combinations, imposed severe operating restrictions. Petitioner estimates that due to current weather conditions it will exhaust its 10% limit (259 hours) of allowable exceedances by mid-August, even when operating under 50% reduced capacity. Petitioner has reaffirmed its commitment to remaining in compliance with the absolute thermal water quality standards 93°F.

Petitioner has stated, and the Agency agrees, that increasing the number of allowable hours of exceedances of the 90°F standard should not result in any harmful effects. The Agency also concurs that failure to grant the requested short-term variance would work an arbitrary and unreasonable hardship on Petitioner.

The Board does hereby grant Petitioner, Commonwealth Edison Dresden Power Station, a provisional variance from 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.211 and Part 303 subject to the following conditions:

- a. The variance shall begin when Dresden Station uses up their NPDES permit allocated 259 hours for discharge of effluent hotter than 90° and continue for 45 days or until September 30, 1988 or when Dresden Station uses up the additional 259 hours received from granting this variance, whichever occurs first.
- b. During the variance, the Petitioner will have an additional 259 hours where the temperature of the Dresden Station power could exceed 32.2°C (90°) however at no time shall the temperature exceed 33.9°C (93°F).
- c. During this variance, the Petitioner shall maintain a continuous temperature and flow recorder for the cooling pond blowdown to the Illinois River. Such records shall be submitted with Petitioner's Discharge Monitoring Reports. The records submitted should indicate the daily temperature discharge to the Illinois River.
- d. The Petitioner shall mitigate possible adverse effects to fish and conduct daily observations of fish conditions.
- e. Within 10 days of the date of the Board's Order, Petitioner shall execute a Certificate of Acceptance and Agreement which shall be sent to Mark T. Books at the address indicated below:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
2200 Churchill Road
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
ATTN: Mark T. Books

This variance shall be void if Petitioner fails to execute and forward the certificate within the ten day period. The ten day period shall be held in abeyance during any period that this matter is being appealed. The form of said Certification shall be as follows:

CERTIFICATION

I, (We), Commonwealth Edison Dresden Power Station, having read the Order of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, in PCB 88-128, dated August 18, 1988, understand and accept the said Order, realizing that such acceptance renders all terms and conditions thereto binding and enforceable.

Petitioner

By: Authorized Agent

Title

Date

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify that the above Order was adopted on the 18th day of August, 1988 by a vote of 6-0.

Dorothy M. Gunn
Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board