

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
August 18, 1988

COMMONWEALTH EDISON)
QUAD CITIES POWER STATION,)
)
Petitioner,)
)
v.) PCB 88-129
)
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)
PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
Respondent.)

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

This matter comes before the Board upon receipt of an August 18, 1988, Agency Recommendation concerning Petitioner, Commonwealth Edison Quad Cities Power Station's request for provisional variance from the limitations set forth at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.211 and Part 303.

On August 17, 1988, Petitioner filed a request for provisional variance with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) seeking temporary relief from this Board's water temperature standards.

Petitioner's NPDES permit sets water temperature limits at Petitioner's facility and prohibits Petitioner from exceeding these more than 1% of the time in any 12-month period. Additionally, at no time shall the water temperature exceed maximum temperatures by more than 3°F. Special condition No. 6, B NPDES Permit No. IL0002224.

Petitioner avers that the severe drought and extremely hot weather, low river flows, elevated ambient river temperatures, and decreased heat dissipation have imposed severe operating restrictions on the generating station. Owing to the weather Petitioner predicts that it will exhaust the 1% limit for maximum exceedances (of the 3°F condition) during mid-August of 1988. In support of this Petitioner has stated the following:

"Typically, ambient water temperatures in pool No. 14 do not exceed 80° during the summer months. However, the unusually hot and dry weather we have experienced has caused ambient water temperatures to rise above 80° throughout much of the summer. Ambient water temperatures exceeding 84.2°F have occurred

regularly for short periods throughout July and August."

Recent data submitted by Petitioner indicates a river temperature of 86.5°F on August 17, 1988.

Notwithstanding this, the increase has occurred gradually and Petitioner claims that resulting environmental impact will be minimal. The Agency concurs in this judgement.

In its Agency Recommendation the IEPA urges this Board to grant the requested provisional variance stating that failure to do so would impose an arbitrary and unreasonable hardship on Petitioner.

The Board agrees; Petitioner is granted provisional variance from 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.211 and Part 303 subject to the following conditions:

- a. This variance shall begin when Quad Cities station uses up their NPDES permit allocated 87.6 hours for discharge of effluent hotter than the temperatures allowed in special conditions No. 6, B of their NPDES permit and continue for 45 days or when Quad Cities Station uses up the additional 175 hours received from granting this variance, whichever occurs first.
- b. During the variance at no time shall the water temperature discharged exceed the maximum limits in special condition No. 6, B of their NPDES permit by more than 3°F.
- c. During this variance, the Petitioner shall maintain a continuous temperature and flow recorder for the cooling blowdown to the Mississippi River. Such records shall be submitted with Petitioner's Discharge Monitoring Reports. The records submitted should indicate the daily temperature discharge to the Mississippi River.
- d. The Petitioner shall mitigate possible adverse effects to the river's fishery and conduct daily observations of fish condition.
- 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 Quad Cities Power Station, having read the Order of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, in PCB 88-129, 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 10/11
Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board