

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
January 6, 1994

SCOTT'S UNOCAL 76, INC.,)
)
) PCB 94-10
) (Provisional Variance)
)
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)
PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
) Respondent.

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by C. A. Manning):

Pursuant to Section 35(b) of the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5/35(b)), Scott's Unocal 76, Inc. has requested that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) recommend that the Board grant a provisional variance to allow Scott's Unocal 76, Inc.'s gasoline dispensing operations (service station) to continue operating even though it did not install operational vapor recovery equipment by November 1, 1993. Such request for a provisional variance and the Notification of Recommendation was filed with the Board by the Agency by fax on Tuesday, January 4, 1994, followed by a hard copy on Wednesday, January 5, 1994. Pursuant to Section 35(b) of the Act, the Board must issue the variance within two (2) days of this filing.

Specifically, the Agency recommends that we grant Scott's Unocal 76, Inc. a forty-five (45)-day provisional variance for its facility located in McHenry County in the Chicago metropolitan statistical area from the Stage II vapor recovery requirements, as set forth in 35 Ill. Adm. Code 218.586, for the period beginning December 16, 1993, and continuing for forty-five (45) days or until the required vapor recovery equipment is installed, whichever comes first.

This recommendation is essentially that the Board extend a previously-granted provisional variance that expired December 15, 1993. The docket number of the previous provisional variance was PCB 93-240, granted on December 2, 1993.

The Agency's provisional variance recommendation states that Scott's Unocal 76, Inc. has requested a provisional variance on behalf of numerous of its service stations in the Chicago area, located as follows:

<u>County</u>	<u>City or Village</u>	<u>Street Address</u>
McHenry	Algonquin	2150 East Algonquin Road

Upon receipt of the request, the Agency issued its recommendation, notifying the Board that the failure to grant the

requested forty-five (45)-day provisional variance would impose an arbitrary or unreasonable hardship on Petitioner. The Agency recommendation states that installation of Stage II vapor recovery equipment at the Scott's Unocal 76, Inc. facilities is not possible by the November 1, 1993 deadline for compliance because Scott's Unocal 76, Inc. has contracted for the purchase and installation of Hasstech vapor recovery equipment, but CARB-approved Hasstech vapor recovery equipment and the crews necessary to install it was not available before the compliance deadline. The recommendation further states that Scott's Unocal 76, Inc. is presently unable to pay for the equipment even if it were immediately available.

Provisional variances are by their very nature temporary. The responsibilities of the Agency and the Board in these short-term provisional variances are different from the responsibilities in standard variances. (See 415 ILCS 5/35(b) & (c)). In provisional variances it is the responsibility of the Agency to make the technical determinations and finding of arbitrary or unreasonable hardship. The Board's responsibility is to adopt a formal Order, to assure the formal maintenance of the record, to assure the enforceability of the variance, and to provide notification of the action by a press release.

Having received the Agency recommendation notifying the Board that a denial of the requested relief would impose an arbitrary or unreasonable hardship, the Board hereby grants Petitioner a provisional variance from 35 Ill. Adm. Code 218.586, subject to the following conditions:

1. The term of this provisional variance shall commence on December 16, 1993, and it shall expire on the date the Petitioner completes the required installation of vacuum assist Stage II vapor recovery equipment, or after forty-five (45) days have elapsed, whichever comes first;
2. The Petitioner shall notify the Agency of the installation of the vapor recovery equipment, by sending notification addressed as follows:

Mr. Terry Sweitzer, P.E.
Manager, Air Monitoring Section
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Air Pollution Control
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, do hereby certify that the above order was adopted on the 6th day of January, 1994, by a vote of 7-0.

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