

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
March 10, 1983

THE MEYERCORD COMPANY,                    )  
  )  
  )                    Petitioner,                    )  
  )  
  )                    v.                                )                    PCB 82-53  
  )  
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL                    )  
PROTECTION AGENCY,                        )  
  )  
  )                    Respondent.                    )

MS. MARY C. BRYANT, CHADWELL & KAYSER, LTD., APPEARED ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONER;

MR. PETER E. ORLINSKY, ATTORNEY AT LAW, APPEARED ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT.

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by D. Anderson):

This matter comes before the Board upon a petition for variance filed April 22, 1982 by Meyercord Company (Meyercord), requesting a variance from the volatile organic compound (VOC) regulations of Rule 205(n)(1)(C) of Chapter 2: Air Pollution for a surface coating operation in Chicago. Because the procedural history has become somewhat complex, the essential items will be listed:

April 22, 1982	Variance petition
June 3, 1982	First amended petition
July 12, 1982	Recommendation
August 12, 1982	Second amended petition (with separate compliance plan)
December 15, 1982	Stipulation of fact (Third amended petition)
December 15, 1982	Hearing
December 29, 1982	Response to request for additional information (Fourth amended petition)
February 1, 1983	Amended Recommendation

The stipulation of facts and response to request for additional information have been designated the third and

fourth amended petitions (Order of January 13, 1983). Additional factual information may be introduced by the petitioner only by filing an amended variance petition pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 104.181.

The July 12, 1982 recommendation was that the variance be granted with conditions. The Agency did not amend this recommendation until after the hearing. The main disagreement was the length of the variance to be granted. On February 1, 1983, the Agency recommended that the variance be granted for three years with conditions. The Board has received no public comment.

The facility in question is situated at 1828-58 West Hastings Street, Chicago. The plant employs 15 people in a mixed residential and industrial area on the southwest side of Chicago. It manufactures "decalomania transfers", also known as decals, transfers or markers. These generally consist of a plastic film with an adhesive coating and a paper backing which is removed before the decal is applied.

A number of coating operations involve the release of VOC. These include adhesive coating and application of non-stick coatings to backing paper. The product passes to a four-zone gas-fired dryer oven. The emissions from the oven are vented to the atmosphere through two stacks. Solvents include ethanol, isopropyl alcohol, ethyl acetate, n-propyl acetate, methyl ethyl ketone, toluene and heptane.

Rule 205(n)(1)(C) limits this paper coating operation to 0.35 kg/l VOC, effective December 31, 1982. This amounts to 76.5 tons per year compared with actual emissions of 135.4 tons per year.

Compliance alternatives include installation of equipment to capture and recycle solvents, equipment to burn solvent fumes and product reformulation. Solvent recapture has been ruled out because the resulting liquid mixture cannot be economically separated by distillation. Burning would require installation of equipment costing about \$500,000 and structural modification of the building. This would require a zoning variance.

Meyercord has elected to proceed by way of product reformulation. The main thrust of this involves development of high solids content and water based adhesives. Meyercord has already eliminated some operations emitting VOC and reduced emissions in others. It has achieved a 38% reduction in VOC emissions since 1980 (R. 10).

Meyercord originally requested a one-year variance, but upped this to three years, which the Agency opposed in the July 12 recommendation. The "stipulation" specifies that within 12 to 18 months an additional 40% reduction in VOC emissions is possible through continued work with high-solids vinyl solution adhesives and polyester emulsion adhesives and new production methods. These will not bring Meyercord into compliance with Rule 205(n)(1)(C). Compliance will require development of an emulsion adhesive which is an adequate substitute for the highest use vinyl acrylic solution adhesive. In the February 1 recommendation the Agency agreed that three years would be needed to develop the coatings.

The Agency believes that Meyercord will be able to come into compliance through development of new adhesives, but notes that Meyercord has committed itself to the installation of an afterburner should it fail (Amended Recommendation, paragraph 6).

VOC emissions are thought to cause elevated ozone levels in the atmosphere. The nearest air quality monitoring station is about four and one-half miles northeast of the plant at Lincoln Park Zoo. During 1981 no readings exceeded the ambient air quality standard of 0.12 ppm. The Agency noted that Meyercord has an episode action plan which provides sufficient safeguards during periods of high ozone concentration (Amended Recommendation, paragraph 12).

The Agency is of the opinion that the grant of a variance would require amendment of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) and that the variance would be approvable as such. The Agency will submit it as a SIP revision.

The Board finds that, considering Meyercord's progress toward compliance, its episode action plan and the technical and zoning difficulties in installing control equipment, Meyercord would suffer arbitrary or unreasonable hardship if required to comply with Rule 205(n)(1)(C) immediately. The Board will grant the variance for three years, subject to conditions similar to those recommended by the Agency on February 1, 1983. The Board will also condition the variance on a cap equal to present emissions.

This Opinion constitutes the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law in this matter.

#### ORDER

Petitioner, Meyercord Company, is granted a variance from Rule 205(n)(1)(C) of Chapter 2: Air Pollution for its plant at 1838-58 West Hastings Street, Chicago, subject to the following conditions:

1. This variance will expire January 31, 1986.
2. Petitioner shall not emit more than 135 tons of volatile organic compounds (VOC) during any calendar year ending during the term of this variance.
3. On or before April 30, 1983, and every three months thereafter, Petitioner shall submit a written report to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency detailing all progress made in achieving compliance with Rule 205(n)(1)(C) during the preceding calendar quarter. This report shall include information on the quantity and VOC content of all coatings utilized during the quarter and a description of the status of the reformulation program. The report shall be sent to the following addresses:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Division of Air Pollution Control  
Control Programs Coordinator  
2200 Churchill Road  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Division of Air Pollution Control, Region 1  
Field Operations Section  
1701 South First Avenue  
Maywood, Illinois 60153.

4. Within forty-five days of the date of this Order, Petitioner shall apply to the Agency for all operating permits required pursuant to Rule 103(b)(6)(A) of Chapter 2.
5. Within forty-five days of the date of this Order, Petitioner shall execute and forward to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Variance Section, 2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, Illinois 62706, a Certificate of Acceptance and Agreement to be bound to all terms and conditions of this variance. This forty-five day period shall be held in abeyance for any period this matter is being appealed. The form of the Certificate shall be as follows:

#### CERTIFICATION

I, (We,) \_\_\_\_\_, having read and fully understanding the Order in PCB 82-53,

hereby accept that Order and agree to be bound  
by all of its terms and conditions.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Board Member Nega abstained.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution  
Control Board, hereby certify that the above Opinion and Order  
were adopted on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1983 by a  
vote of 4-0.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christan L. Moffett, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board