

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
April 7, 1983

CONTINENTAL GRAIN COMPANY,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	PCB 83-45
	)	
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL	)	
PROTECTION AGENCY,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by W.J. Nega):

This provisional variance request comes before the Board upon an April 6, 1983 Recommendation of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency). The Agency recommends that a provisional variance be granted to Continental Grain Company (Continental) for a period of 28 days to begin within one week of the date of the Board's Order.

Continental owns and operates a soybean processing plant in Taylorville, Christian County, Illinois which has wastewater treatment facilities that include a 1-acre anaerobic lagoon and a 1-acre aerobic lagoon operated in series. Effluent discharged from this lagoon system flows into a final spray irrigation system which includes 5 spray nozzles located along the southern quarter of the 32 acre irrigation field. During the rainy season, flows which exceed the 200 gpm pumping capacity of the spray irrigation pump are diverted to 3 storm water discharge pipes located along the southern edge of the irrigation field. Under such wet weather conditions, seepage into the soil is collected by a tile field underlying the irrigation field, and is recycled either back to the spray irrigation system (where additional evapotranspiration can occur) or to the cooling tower (to be used as makeup water). About 95,000 gpd of water is ordinarily recycled back to the cooling tower during the operation of the processing plant.

At the present time, and for the last several years, the northern portion of the 32 acre irrigation field is, and has been, flooded. About 16 acres of this irrigation field is currently under about 18 inches of water. On March 9, 1983, the 5-inch underground spray irrigation pipe line ruptured (making the irrigation system inoperable). From March 9, 1983 until April 1, 1983, no process water (except for some cleanup water) will be discharged to the wastewater treatment facilities. Storm water, however, will continue to be discharged. Without the use of the spray irrigation system and the ability to recycle through the cooling tower, spring rains might further flood the irrigation field and run off to a roadside drainage ditch, adjacent property, and even the road itself.

To eliminate this potential spring flooding problem and restore the efficiency of its wastewater treatment system, Continental needs to expeditiously dig down about 3 feet to repair the ruptured pipe and replace the entire length of pipe that feeds the 5 spray nozzles. Continental must first drain the flooded irrigation field before draining the immediate area surrounding the 5 spray nozzles so the appropriate equipment can be brought into the field to make the requisite repairs. About 8.0 MG of water will be discharged to Illinois waters to drop the level of the pond so that Continental can proceed with its repairs on the ruptured line.

To drain the flooded area, Continental can either (1) discharge to an 18-inch sluice gate by opening a sealed outlet to divert flows to the field tile system, or (2) discharge directly from the flooded irrigation field for about 30 feet to a small roadside drainage ditch which leads to the field tile system. In either case, the drained water would flow through the field tile system and travel about 1.25 miles before emptying into an unnamed ditch which is tributary to the South Fork Sangamon River.

The Agency, which inspected Continental's wastewater treatment facilities on March 30, 1983, has indicated that: (1) the environmental impact to the drainage ditch, the unnamed ditch, and the South Fork Sangamon River is minimal; (2) no toxic pollutants are known to exist in this situation; (3) laboratory test results show pollutants to be at low levels (see: Exhibit A); (4) if repairs are made during dry weather while the processing plant is shut down, there may not be any discharges; and (5) if discharges occur, they will be for a relatively short period of time (it will take approximately 8 to 16 days for draining and about 5 to 10 days to complete repairs).

The Agency has concluded that compliance on a short-term basis with the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solids (TSS) limitations of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.120(c) would impose an arbitrary or unreasonable hardship. It, therefore, recommends that the Board grant Continental a variance from Section 304.120(c) for a period of 28 days to begin within one week of the Board's Order, subject to certain conditions.

Pursuant to Section 35(b) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, the Board hereby grants the provisional variance as recommended.

#### ORDER

Continental Grain Company is hereby granted a provisional variance from 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.120(c) for a period of 28 days to begin within one week of the date of the Board's Order subject to the following conditions:

1. Continental shall inform Robert Broms, Manager, Compliance Assurance Section, Division of Water Pollution Control (217/782-9720):
  - a.) The day the discharge begins;
  - b.) The day the discharge ceases;
  - c.) The day repairs are completed and the system is put back into operation.
2. Continental shall either discharge to the sluice gate in order to discharge directly to the field tile or, to the drainage ditch but, if to the drainage ditch, Continental shall control such a discharge by use of either a pump or another method that can be shut on and off;
3. Continental shall sample, using approved methods, the discharge 2 times per week for BOD, TSS, ammonia nitrogen, and pH;
4. Sample results shall be submitted to Robert Broms, Manager, Compliance Assurance Section, within 7 days after the end of each calendar week of discharging;
5. Continental shall remove, immediately upon expiration of this variance, any device use for the discharge;
6. Within 10 days of the date of the Board's Order, Continental shall execute a Certificate of Acceptance and Agreement which shall be sent to : Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Water Pollution Control, Compliance Assurance Section, 2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, Illinois 62706. This certification shall have the following form:

CERTIFICATION

I, (We) \_\_\_\_\_,  
having read the Order of the Illinois Pollution Control Board  
in PCB 83-45 dated April 7, 1983, understand and accept 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, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify that the above Opinion and Order was adopted on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1983 by a vote of 50.



Christan L. Moffett, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board