

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
August 18, 1983

OLIN CORPORATION, )  
Joliet Plant )  
 )  
Petitioner, )  
 )  
v. ) PCB 83-46  
 )  
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL )  
PROTECTION AGENCY, )  
 )  
Respondent. )

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

On March 31, 1983, Olin Corporation (Olin) filed a Petition seeking an exemption and site-specific emission limitation pursuant to Rule 204(g). That petition requested the emission limitation for Olin's Joliet plant boilers be raised from 1.8 to 6.0 pounds of sulfur dioxide per million British Thermal Units of heat input (lbs SO<sub>2</sub>/mBtu), to allow Olin to burn Illinois coal. The requirements for these proceedings are contained in 35 Ill. Adm. Code Part 106, Subpart C.

For such proceedings, 35 Ill. Adm. Code 106.302(g) requires the petition to include the "calculated maximum ground level concentrations" of SO<sub>2</sub>. Section 106.302(h) requires the petition to contain information estimating the frequency, characteristics, probable time of occurrence and duration of the meteorological conditions associated with such maxima. Specific numerical information on the calculated worst-case scenario is a matter of significant interest to the Board in these proceedings. Neither the maximum calculated concentrations (annual, 24-hour, 3-hour) nor locations of such maxima were included in the Olin petition. In the absence of a plausible explanation of why these numbers could not be provided, a bare assertion that the higher emission limit would not violate applicable ambient air standards is inadequate. Today's Order directs Olin to provide additional information on these maxima and the frequency of meteorological conditions under which they might occur.

On June 2, 1983, Dr. Herman Sievering wrote a letter to the hearing officer in this proceeding. That letter states: "Thus, despite remaining below the national air quality 24-hour average SO<sub>2</sub> standard of 365 ug/m<sup>3</sup> our risk assessment indicates - with high probability - that at least one premature death per year will result in the Joliet area as a result of variance approval." Dr. Sievering requested that his letter and an associated report be included in the record of the variance proceeding (PCB 83-44) which Olin filed as a companion to this case.

In establishing the procedural and substantive rules for exemptions the Board intended that the level of public participation be equivalent to that provided in regular Board rulemaking (cf. R75-5 Opinion at page 18, February 15, 1979, and R80-22 Opinion at page 13, February 24, 1983). Moreover, in a June 16, 1983, Order the Board commanded general rulemaking public participation in this proceeding. In a general rulemaking proceeding a document and letter addressing the health impacts of a site specific action requested of the Board, which was submitted to the hearing officer before the close of the record, would be accepted as a public comment even if improperly captioned. In this instance, although Dr. Sievering addressed his comments to the variance proceeding, his comments spoke to the propriety of a long-term 6.0 lbs SO<sub>2</sub>/mBtu emission limitation for Olin. Therefore the Board is accepting his comments in this case as a public comment. Today's Order requires an additional hearing in this proceeding at which Dr. Sievering shall be allowed to testify and submit evidence or public comments.

Although neither Olin nor the Agency have suggested that the prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) provisions apply to the requested SO<sub>2</sub> emission increase, the Board today requests information on what the PSD impact would be at 6.0 lbs SO<sub>2</sub>/mBtu, for informational purposes only.

ORDER

1. An additional hearing is to be held in this matter to address the information listed below, at which Dr. Herman Sievering shall be allowed to testify.
2. Olin shall provide additional information on 35 Ill. Adm. Code 106.302(g) and (h).
3. Olin shall provide additional information on the prevention of significant deterioration increment impacts of a 6.0 lbs/mBtu emission limitation for the Joliet Plant.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify that the above Interim Order was adopted on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1983 by a vote of 5-0.

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