

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
June 30, 1983

TEXACO U.S.A., a division)
of TEXACO, INC.,)
)
Petitioner,)
)
v.) PCB 83-80
)
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)
PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
Respondent.)

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

This provisional variance request comes before the Board upon the June 30, 1983 Recommendation of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency). The Agency recommends that the Board grant Texaco U.S.A (Texaco) a provisional variance from 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.120(b) for a period of 20 days to be retroactive beginning on June 27, 1983 to allow the discharge of wastewater from its Lawrenceville, Illinois refinery should it become necessary during maintenance dredging of its primary and final settling basins.

Texaco's Lawrenceville refinery, which is rated at a capacity of 91,000 barrels per day, produces gasoline, liquified petroleum gas, fuel oils, sulfur, asphalt products, and middle distillates. Texaco operates an aerated lagoon facility for treatment of its refining process water and storm water. (See: Exhibit A). To control in-plant waste, Texaco utilizes sour water stripping, neutralization of acid and caustic waste, and reuses its waste oil. Process wastewaters and domestic sewage discharges are treated in the Petitioner's wastewater treatment system which has an average design flow of 3.6 million gallons per day. This treatment system includes API separators, a primary settling basin, equalization and aeration basins, and final settling basins. Additionally, Texaco has an off-test storage basin with an 18 million gallon capacity and a storm water basin with a 12 million gallon capacity to provide storage for effluent which does not meet NPDES Permit limitations or wastewater resulting from in-plant spills or other similar occurrences. Final effluent may be routed to either the storage basin or the storm water basin and then returned to the wastewater treatment plant for ultimate discharge into the Embarrass River.

To prevent deterioration of its effluent, the Petitioner plans to spend approximately \$100,000.00 to perform maintenance dredging of sludge material from its primary settling basin (which has a surface area of 66,500 square feet and is 10 feet deep) and its south final settling basin (which has a surface area of 33,700 square feet and is 10 feet deep.) Texaco's north final settling basin is not currently being used. During its dredging operations, Texaco plans to divert all wastewater, after receiving treatment in the aeration basin, to a low area contained by dikes (i.e., a "flare area"). This wastewater will be discharged to the off-test storage basin and/or storm water basin after settling is provided in the flare area. The off-test basins will provide the requisite 10 to 12 day storage capacity until the water can be returned to the wastewater treatment plant for complete treatment.

According to Texaco's estimates, the dredging operations will be completed in approximately 10 to 12 days. However, if heavy rainfall occurs during this time period or if wet weather is encountered, it is possible that the storage capacity of the off-test storage and storm water basins may be exceeded before dredging is completed. In such a situation, a wastewater discharge containing suspended solids in excess of Texaco's NPDES Permit limit of 25 mg/l could occur. Additionally, the Petitioner anticipates suspended solids excursions for a short period of time after dredging operations have been completed and the wastewater treatment facility placed back into complete service. Accordingly, Texaco has requested a provisional variance for a period of 20 days.

The Agency has noted that the discharge of wastewater with suspended solids in excess of the limits set forth in Texaco's NPDES Permit for, at most, 20 days would not cause any significant adverse environmental impact to the Embarrass River. Moreover, the Agency has stated that "Texaco appears to have taken every reasonable step to reduce the likelihood of discharging while dredging and by completing the dredging operations future excursions of NPDES permit limitations can be reduced or eliminated." (Rec. 3).

The Agency has concluded that compliance on a short-term basis with the total suspended solids limitation of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.120(b) would impose an arbitrary or unreasonable hardship. It, therefore, recommends that the Board grant Texaco a variance from Section 304.120(b) for a period of 20 days to be retroactive beginning on June 27, 1983, 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

Texaco U.S.A. is hereby granted a provisional variance from the total suspended solids limitation of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.120(b) for a period of 20 days to be retroactive beginning on June 27, 1983, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Texaco shall report any discharge during dredging to Robert E. Broms, Manager, Compliance Assurance Section, Division of Water Pollution Control (217/782-9720);
- 2) Texaco shall sample any discharge during dredging pursuant to its NPDES Permit and submit the results by July 25, 1983, to Robert E. Broms;
- 3) Texaco shall sample and report its effluent after dredging pursuant to its NPDES Permit, No. IL004219;
- 4) Texaco shall properly dispose of the dredged sludge;
- 5) Texaco shall return all water in its off-test/storm water basin to the wastewater treatment plant for complete treatment.
- 6) Within 10 days of the date of the Board's Order, Texaco 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 83-80 dated June 30, 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.

Chairman Dumelle and Board Member J. Anderson concurred.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify that the above Opinion and Order was adopted on the 30th day of June, 1983 by a vote of 4-0.



Christan L. Moffett, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board