

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
March 19, 1981

GETTY SYNTHETIC FUELS, INC.,)
)
 Petitioner,)
)
 v.) PCB 80-171
)
 ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL)
 PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
 Respondent.)

CONCURRING OPINION (by D. Satchell):

The purpose of this Opinion is to call attention to an Agency decision where apparently form ruled over substance.

In southeast Cook County the approximately 105 acre CID landfill emits about 5,000,000 cubic feet of landfill gas in a twenty-four hour period. This is a usual natural consequence of microbial decomposition of putrescible materials under anaerobic conditions.

Getty Synthetic Fuels, Inc., on May 29, 1980, was denied a construction permit to build a methane recovery plant at the above site because the plant would be a major source of hydrocarbon emissions in a non-attainment area for ozone.

The five million cubic feet (about 400,000 lbs.) of landfill gas to be recovered daily contain about 5300 pounds of hydrocarbons with molecular weights greater than methane. Emission of these hydrocarbons is regulated because they react with other atmospheric gases to form ozone. The original plant would have used "air stripping" which would have reduced the approximately 220 lbs/hr of "heavy" hydrocarbons to about 20 lbs/hr.

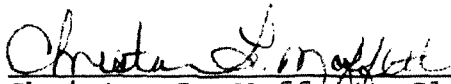
In addition to approximately a ninety percent reduction in "heavy" hydrocarbon emissions and more than 900 million cubic feet of high Btu pipeline quality gas recovered each year, the construction and operation of this facility was contemplated as a portion of the odor prevention program at the CID landfill mandated by the Board in its Order of January 4, 1979 (People, et al. v. Waste Management, Inc., et al., PCB 76-184).

While appreciating the precedent setting possibilities of decisions regarding this unique facility, it is very difficult

for me to see why such innovative technology should not be enthusiastically encouraged.


Donald P. Satchell
Board Member

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify that the above Concurring Opinion was filed with the Board on the 27th day of April, 1981.


Christan L. Moffett, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board