

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
April 27, 1978

WSC CORPORATION, )  
 )  
 ) Petitioner, )  
 )  
 )  
 ) v. ) PCB 77-303  
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 )  
 ) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, )  
 )  
 ) Respondent. )

LAWRENCE E. STRICKLING, KIRKLAND & ELLIS, APPEARED ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER;  
LORETTA A. WEBER, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, APPEARED ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT.

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by Mr. Goodman):

On November 23, 1977, WSC Corporation (WSC) filed a Petition requesting variance from certain of the Air Pollution Control Regulations (Regulations) for its coke plant operations and basic oxygen plant at its Wisconsin Steel Works located on the far south-east side of Chicago, Illinois. WSC is the successor in interest of the Wisconsin Steel facilities previously owned by International Harvester (Harvester). A hearing in this matter was held on January 23, 1978; no members of the public were present at the hearing, and the Board has received no public comment in this matter. No evidence having been presented at the hearing, the Board shall decide this matter based upon representations made by Petitioner in its Petition for Variance and the Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) in its recommendation.

This is the latest of a number of variances considered by the Board concerning the Wisconsin Steel facility. The subject of this variance is both the coking operation and the basic oxygen furnace operation at the plant. Since both of these matters are a continuation of matters previously considered in PCB 74-277 and PCB 75-271, Petitions for Variance previously filed by Harvester, the Board will not reiterate the factual situation.

WSC requests variance specifically from Rules 203(d)(6)(B)(i)(bb), 203(d)(6)(B)(iv)(aa), 202(b), and 203(b). Since 1975, the owners and operators of the Wisconsin Steel facility have pursued a compliance plan to control emissions from the coke operations and the basic oxygen furnace. Measures taken to control the emissions have included termination of an old coke battery, complete rebuild of the currently used battery, new methods of coking and maintenance, installation of a coke side shed to alleviate the heavy emissions from the coke side of the ovens, new charging equipment and procedures, installation of high draft fans and electrostatic precipitators in conjunction with the basic oxygen furnace, and emission control oriented work procedures. In spite of the advances made in emission control, there remain some uncontrolled emissions which exceed the limits of Chapter 2 of the Board's Regulations. These emissions involve sporadic puffs of smoke during the charging and coking operation and leakage through warped plates in the main collection hood over the basic oxygen furnace. In the case of the warped hood plates, the emissions escape through the ventilating monitor located in the roof of the building.

Relief is requested until May 15, 1978 from Rule 203(d)(6)(B)(i)(bb) of Chapter 2, which covers the coke charging operation. Relief from Rule 203(d)(6)(B)(4)(aa) of Chapter 2 (coke oven emissions) is requested until May 30, 1978, or if Petitioner is not in compliance with this Rule on May 30, 1978, until July 1, 1979. Relief from Rules 202(b)(opacity) and Rule 203(b)(particulates) for emissions from the basic oxygen furnace roof monitor is requested until November 1, 1978. The Board notes that in no case does the request for variance go beyond July 1, 1979.

The Agency recommendation filed January 9, 1978 recommends granting the requested variances under certain conditions. The Agency recommendation conditions are almost identical to the proposed compliance plan included in WSC's Petition with minor exceptions that require Petitioner to obtain necessary State construction and operating permits, to achieve compliance with Rule 203(d)(6)(B)(iv)(aa) no later than July 1, 1979 and to execute a certificate of acceptance and agreement to be bound by all the terms and conditions of the variance. The Board agrees with the Agency's recommendation. The Wisconsin Steel facility has been brought to its present status of compliance due to the good faith efforts of its various owners and the expenditure of a considerable amount of money. To be denied a variance while WSC worked to correct the last remaining emission problems would be an arbitrary and unreasonable burden on WSC. The Board will therefore

grant the variance requested and will incorporate the conditions as requested by the Agency since they are, for the most part, identical to the compliance program as proposed by Petitioner.

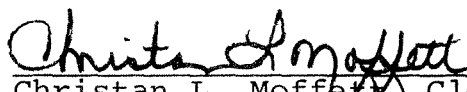
This Opinion constitutes the findings of fact and conclusions of the Board in this matter.

ORDER

It is the Order of the Pollution Control Board that:

1. WSC Corporation be granted variance from Rule 203(d)(6)(B)(i)(bb) of Chapter 2: Air Pollution Regulations of the Illinois Pollution Control Board until May 15, 1978;
2. WSC Corporation be granted a variance from Rule 203(d)(6)(B)(iv)(aa) of Chapter 2: Coke Oven Emissions until May 30, 1978; or if Petitioner is not in compliance with this Rule on May 30, 1978, until July 1, 1979;
3. WSC Corporation be granted a variance from Rule 202(b)(opacity) and Rule 203(b)(particulates) for emissions from its basic oxygen furnace roof monitor until November 1, 1978; and
4. The variance granted by Parts 1, 2, and 3 of this Order are subject to the conditions contained in the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's recommendation filed with the Board January 9, 1978, which recommendation is hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order were adopted on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1978 by a vote of 5-0.

  
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Christan L. Moffett, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board