

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
February 26, 1976

WIRCO CASTINGS, INC.,)
)
 Petitioner,)
)
 v.) PCB 75-446
)
)
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION)
 AGENCY,)
)
 Respondent.)

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

This Petition for variance was filed on November 14, 1975 requesting an extension of a previous variance granted by the Board on January 3, 1975 (PCB 74-266). There have been a series of variances granted in this matter starting in April, 1973 (PCB 73-4, PCB 73-281). An Interim Order of the Board of November 26, 1975, for more information resulted in an amendment to the original application for variance filed December 16, 1975. The Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) filed a recommendation on January 21, 1976, there being no hearing held on the matter.

Wirco Casting Company, Inc., (Wirco) owns and operates a gray iron foundry located in New Athens, St. Clair County, Illinois. The foundry produces castings for the automotive and other industries.

Wirco's problems revolves around the use of a cupola furnace which is not in compliance with Rule 203(a) whenever their 20 ton induction furnace is shut down for repairs. Wirco at present is in the process of installing a second induction furnace which is scheduled for completion on August 1, 1976, after which time all cupola melting will be discontinued. From the information presented it appears that the cupola furnace would be used for a total of 20 days prior to the installation of the second induction furnace.

The record in this case indicates that Wirco has pursued its compliance program in a timely fashion and will have completed such program before the end of 1976. The good faith of Wirco under the

previous variances is unquestioned and there have been no complaints against the company by the public. As was stated in the Board Order in PCB 74-266 page 3 dated January 3, 1975, "the chances of Wirco creating a general pollution problem are very minimal." Total emission from the cupola furnace will be less than 3600 pounds for the entire period of the requested variance, and the results from the 1974 Annual Air Quality Report indicate the annual geometric mean level of total suspended particulate matter recorded at Belleville, Illinois was 73 micrograms/cubic meter of air and the 24 hour maximum suspended particulate matter reading was 169 micrograms/cubic meter of air.

Noting the good faith effort of Wirco in pursuing their compliance plan, and the lack of ambient air quality problems in the area, together with the fact that the emissions are so minor, the Board finds that Wirco's variance shall be extended until January 1, 1977 or until their second induction furnace comes on line, whichever event occurs first.

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

ORDER

It is the Order of the Pollution Control Board that Wirco Castings, Incorporated be granted variance from Rule 203(a) until January 1, 1977, or until their second induction furnace comes on line whichever event shall occur first, subject to the following conditions:

- a) Wirco shall operate its cupola furnace for a maximum of 20 days, with a maximum of 8 hours a day, the 20 days being allocated between no more than two outages of their induction furnace during the term of this variance.
- b) Wirco shall notify the Agency in writing 48 hours before the day upon which its induction furnace will be shut down for scheduled repairs.
- c) Cupola production shall not exceed 30 tons of metal per day and the rate of production shall not exceed 4 tons per hour.

- d) Wirco shall maintain in good working order and operate, during all times when the cupola is operating, its after burner and wet cap control devices on the cupola furnace.
- e) After operation of the cupola furnace Wirco shall supply to the Agency, within 48 hours of such operation, the number of days of cupola operation and the production figures for molten metal for each day of operation.
- f) The cupola and induction furnaces shall never be operated concurrently.
- g) Wirco shall make progress reports to the Agency every two months starting within 30 days after the date of this Order until the completion of their compliance plan.
- h) Wirco shall apply for and receive a permit for its cupola furnace within 120 days after the date of this Order.
- i) Within 21 days after the date of this Order Wirco shall execute and forward to the Program Coordinator at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency a certification of acceptance and agreement to be bound by all terms and conditions of this variance, the form of said certification to be as follows:

I, (We), _____ having read and fully understanding the Order of the Illinois Pollution Control Board in PCB 75-446, hereby accept said Order and agree to be bound by all the terms and conditions thereof.

Signed by _____
Title _____
Date _____

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Mr. Dumelle dissents.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order were adopted on the 26th day of February, 1976 by a vote of 4-1.



Christan L. Moffett, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board