

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
April 14, 1977

CITY OF ATLANTA, )  
 )  
 Petitioner, )  
 )  
 v. ) PCB 77-47  
 )  
 )  
 ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION )  
 AGENCY, )  
 )  
 Respondent. )

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

The City of Atlanta (Atlanta) filed its Petition for Variance before the Board February 10, 1977, requesting relief from Pollution Control Board Rules and Regulations, Chapter 3, Rules 203 and 408. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) filed its Recommendation March 18, 1977, no hearing was held in this matter and there has been no public comment.

The subject of this petition is Atlanta's Water Treatment Plant which produces potable water for a current population of 1,650. Upon determining that their water treatment system was not capable of treating the required volume of water, Atlanta proposed to improve the system by adding certain filters and pumps and replacing the filter media in the existing filters. The Agency denied a permit for the improvements on the basis that the water treatment plant waste water presently discharges untreated into a storm sewer which discharges into Kickapoo Creek in violation of the Illinois Pollution Control Board Rules and Regulations, Chapter 3, Rules 203 and 408.

Total discharge per day from the plant including salt regeneration of the zeolite softeners and filter backwash from the four 66 inch diameter filters is approximately 15,600 gallons, containing approximately 6,800 mg/l of dissolved solids. Atlanta alleges that there is

no evidence of any damage caused by the presence of the high dissolved solids in the outlet stream and that if it is not allowed to construct the addition to the treatment plant, many residents would install zeolite softeners in their homes whose salt brine and backwash would be discharged to the City's drain tile system resulting in increased discharge of dissolved solids. In its Recommendation, the Agency agreed that any adverse impact by Atlanta's discharge is minimal, noting that it has not detected any degradation in water quality in respect to total dissolved solids and total iron which may be attributable to Petitioner's discharge. In addition, during the sampling period, Atlanta's effluent disappeared by percolation into the ground a short distance downstream of the discharge.

The Agency points out that Atlanta has received the Step I grant for facilities' planning to determine the feasibility of construction of a sewage treatment plant and a new sanitary sewer system for the community, and suggests that any variance granted be conditioned upon Atlanta's continued interest in this program, since such construction would negate the necessity for a variance. The Agency suggests that Atlanta will also need relief from Rules 203(f) and 402 of Chapter 3 as such rules are applicable to chloride because the chloride concentration of Atlanta's discharge is expected to exceed the 500 mg/l water quality standard of Rule 203(f) of Chapter 3. Atlanta has, in its Petition, agreed to install a slow sand filter on the plant backwash effluent line to remove iron from the discharge to the storm sewer.

Considering the problems faced by Atlanta in treating sufficient water for the use of its citizens and the minimal impact upon the environment by Atlanta's discharge, the Board finds that denial of the variance would be an arbitrary and unreasonable hardship upon the City. The Board will therefore grant variance from Rules 203(f), 402 and 408(b) of Chapter 3 of the Board's Rules and Regulations and Rules 203(f) and 402 of Chapter 3 as these rules apply to chloride, with certain conditions.

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 the City of Atlanta be granted variance from Rules 203(f), 402 and 408(b) of Chapter 3 of the Pollution Control Board's Rules and Regulations as

such rules are applicable to total dissolved solids and Rules 203(f) and 402 of Chapter 3 as such rules are applicable to chloride, until July 1, 1981 or until installation of a sewage treatment plant, whichever occurs first, under the following conditions:

1. Atlanta shall continue to pursue construction grant funds for construction of a sewage treatment plant and new sanitary sewer system; and
2. Atlanta shall install a slow sand filter on the plant backwash effluent line to remove iron from the discharge to the storm sewer; and
3. Atlanta shall execute and forward, within 60 days of the date of this Order, to the Manager, Variance Section, Division of Water Pollution Control, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, 2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, Illinois, 62706, and the Pollution Control Board a Certification of Acceptance and agreement to be bound to all terms and conditions of this Order. The form of said certification shall be as follows:

CERTIFICATION

I (We), \_\_\_\_\_ having read and fully understanding the Order of the Illinois Pollution Control Board in PCB 77-47 hereby accept said Order and agree to be bound by all of the terms and conditions thereof.

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order were adopted on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1977 by a vote of 5-0.

  
Christan L. Moffett, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board