

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
December 2, 1976

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS POWER COOPERATIVE,)
)
) Petitioner,)
)
) v.) PCB 76-216
)
) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
) Respondent.)

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by Dr. Satchell):

This matter comes before the Board on a Petition for Renewal of a Variance granted for one year to Southern Illinois Power Cooperative (SIPCO) by the Board in PCB 75-352 (19 PCB 255) on November 6, 1975. The Petition for Renewal was filed on August 12, 1976 and again sought relief from Rule 207(a)(4-5), Chapter 2: Air Pollution Control Regulations (Rules). The original petition was inadequate and SIPCO responded to the Board Order of September 2, 1976 by filing an Amended Petition on September 14, 1976. The Agency filed its recommendation to grant the variance on November 3, 1976. No hearing was held.

SIPCO is incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois as a non-profit corporation and generates electricity at its plant on the Lake of Egypt in Williamson County for three distribution cooperatives which serve the rural areas in the southern one-third of Illinois. Presently SIPCO uses three 33 MW units each fired by double seven-foot radial cyclone burners equipped with mechanical multiple-cyclone dust collectors and electrostatic precipitators. This equipment permits SIPCO to burn good local coal mixed with not less than 25 per cent coal refuse obtained locally from deposits in gob, slurry ponds, etc. from abandoned mine workings.

On the strength of the previous variance and the Petitioner proposed regulatory modification of Rule 207 which would permit the aforementioned burning of refuse, the Agency granted a construction permit on January 26, 1975 for the fourth unit rated at 160 MW. This new facility is expected to exceed the NO_x emission standard of 0.70 lb/10⁶ BTU of Rule 207(a)(4) and the standard of Rule 207(a)(5) of the Rules.

The SIPCO proposed regulatory change, R75-10, was published in the Environmental Register No. 110, September 25, 1975 and would adopt the Federal Standard exemption from the 0.7 lb/10⁶ BTU emission of NO_x for new sources burning at least 25% coal refuse (40 FR No. 11, p. 2803).

Agency calculations estimate NO_x emissions from the new unit at 2.75 lbs/10⁶ BTU when expressed as NO₂. Dispersion modeling and an Agency monitor at Marion, eight miles north of the site, indicate no ambient air problems. SIPCO states that Agency calculations predict the new unit would raise the present 3 µg/m³ total maximum concentration of NO_x to 5 µg/m³ which is far below the allowable health related standard of 100 µg/m³.

The beneficial use of the numerous deposits of coal refuse in southern Illinois is discussed at some length in the Opinion of PCB 75-352 and need not be repeated here.

The Board again finds SIPCO has made a sufficient case of unreasonable and unnecessary hardship to warrant a variance from Rule 207(a) (4-5).

This opinion constitutes the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law in this matter.

ORDER

Variance is hereby granted Southern Illinois Power Cooperative from Rule 207(a) (4-5) Chapter 2: Air Pollution Control Regulations. The length of this variance shall be for five years from the date of this order, or until the Board enters a final order in R75-10, or until construction of the fourth generating unit is completed, whichever comes first.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order were adopted on the 2nd day of December 1976 by a vote of 4-0.


Christan L. Moffett, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board