

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
August 24, 1978

WESTERN ILLINOIS POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.,	)	
	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
	)	
v.	)	PCB 78-155
	)	
	)	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

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

Western Illinois Power Cooperative, Incorporated (WIPCO) filed its Petition for Variance from the Board's particulate and sulfur dioxide emissions standards, Rules 203(g)(1)(B) and 204(c)(1)(B) of Chapter 2, on May 31, 1978. The Agency filed its Recommendation on July 24, 1978. WIPCO waived its right to a hearing in this matter.

The subject of this petition is WIPCO's Pearl Station generating plant located one-half mile south of Pearl, Illinois in Pike County. Pearl Station is a 22 MW coal-burning, steam turbine power plant consisting of one unit fired by four burners equipped with a mechanical multiple cyclone dust collector. WIPCO estimates that Pearl Station will consume 60,000 tons of coal in 1978 having an average heat value of 11,200 BTU/lb. and an average ash and sulfur content of 12% and 3.4%, respectively. The Pearl Station serves approximately 35,000 rural customers in Central Illinois. On February 8, 1978, the plant was closed for major repairs following a boiler explosion. The plant was expected to reopen around June 1, 1978.

On October 1, 1975, WIPCO placed in operation a wet particulate scrubber at its Pearl Station at a total cost in excess of \$750,000. This scrubber was designed to meet the Board's sulfur dioxide and particulate emission standards. Since it first began operations, the scrubber has been beset with operating and performance problems. Due to the acidic nature of the scrubber effluent, the stack has become corroded, and as much as 60% of

the lower section of the stack's lining has been eroded away. Due to the deterioration of the stack, the scrubber has not been in operation. WIPCO is requesting this variance until modifications can be made to the scrubber and a new fiberglass-lined stack is built. The existing stack will only be used during boiler start-up/shutdown and when the scrubber is out of service for maintenance. The estimated cost of these modifications is \$300,000, and WIPCO has indicated its ability to meet a completion date of July 1, 1979.

The Board agrees with the Petitioner that denial of this variance would cause undue hardship to WIPCO. This petition is the latest in a series of petitions which WIPCO has filed in regard to the installation of the wet scrubber. See, PCB 72-441, 73-471, 74-150, 74-394, 75-192 and 75-264. WIPCO has met the conditions of each of these variances. Pursuant to the Board's Order in PCB 75-192, WIPCO conducted an ambient air test at Pearl Station in 1975, and the Board at that time found that no ambient air quality problems were being generated by the Pearl Station. The Agency notes in its Recommendation that present air quality in the vicinity of Pearl Station should be substantially the same. Since no environmental harm is expected, the Board finds that the granting of this variance is warranted.

As the Agency pointed out in its Recommendation, this variance must be subject to the requirements of the Federal Clean Air Act. The Board notes that the conditions of this variance, as outlined below, are in compliance with federal requirements. For this reason and the pendency of a decision in R75-5 (Sulfur Dioxide Regulation Amendments), the Board has limited the variance from the sulfur dioxide emission standard to July 1, 1979, or until final decision in R75-5, whichever 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 Petitioner be granted a variance from Rule 203(g)(1)(B) and 204(c)(1)(B) of Chapter 2: Air Pollution, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) That said variance from Rule 203(g)(1)(B) shall extend until July 1, 1979;
- (2) That said variance from Rule 204(c)(1)(B) shall extend until July 1, 1979 or until final decision in R75-5, whichever occurs first;

- (3) That mechanical dust collectors shall be operated as an interim control method for the duration of the variance;
  
- (4) That within 45 days of the adoption of this Order, the Western Illinois Power Cooperative, Incorporated shall execute and forward to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, 2200 Churchill Road, Springfield, Illinois 62706 a Certification of Acceptance and Agreement to be bound to all terms and conditions of this Order. The 45 day period shall be held in abeyance during any period this matter is being appealed. 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 78-155 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 24<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1978 by a vote of 50.

Christan L. Moffett  
Christan L. Moffett, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board