

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

December 19, 1974

WESTERN ILLINOIS POWER COOPERATIVE)	
PETITIONER)	
)	
)	
v.)	PCB 74-394
)	
)	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)	
RESPONDENT)	

MR. T. C. RAMMELKAMP, ATTORNEY, in behalf of WESTERN ILLINOIS POWER COOPERATIVE
 MR. MICHAEL GINSBERG, ATTORNEY, in behalf of the ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by Mr. Marder)

This action involves a request for variance from Rule 2-2.53 of the Rules and Regulations governing the control of air pollution. The Petition, filed on October 29, 1974, requested relief for a coal-fired boiler. On November 18, 1974, an amendment to the Petition was filed, seeking additional relief from Rules 203 and 204 as they would apply subsequent to May 31, 1975. Relief is requested until July 1, 1975.

No hearing was held on this matter and the Agency recommended (October 29, 1974) a grant of said variance. This request is for a continuation of variances granted in the following previous docket numbers: PCB 72-441, January 30, 1973; PCB 73-471, January 24, 1974; PCB 74-150, July 18, 1974. Said variances granted relief to Petitioner to allow the installation of a wet scrubber control system. The reader is referred to the above records for a more detailed discussion of the relevant facts.

Petitioner owns and operates an electric generating facility located in Pearl Township, Pike County, Illinois. The maximum load of this station is 22 mw, and is generated by four pulverized coal-fired boilers. Fuel for the boilers is an 80% coal, 20% coke mixture.

The Petitioner has, since the inception of the original variance (PCB 72-441), been engaged in a compliance plan to meet the requirements of Rules 203 and 204. Said compliance plan entails the use of a Riley Stoker Corporation wet scrubber. This scrubber is alleged to be capable of meeting the particulate limits dictated by Rule 203, as well as reducing the SO₂ emissions to conform with Rule 204. Petitioner's emissions and regulatory requirements are as follows:

Part.	Emissions	Rule 2-2.53	Rule 203 (g)	Rule 204(c)	% Control
	1.51#/mmBTU	0.8#/mmBTU	0.1#/mmBTU	-	93%
SO ₂	6.5#/mmBTU	-	-	6.0#/mmBTU	8%

Although no detail is given as regards the operation of the proposed scrubber, it is assumed that by using water as a scrubbant, the 8% reduction can be obtained.

In an affidavit attached to Petitioner's variance request, the problems in attaining compliance by the anticipated January 30, 1975, date were discussed. Mr. John L. O'Donnell (affiant) stated that delivery of by-pass damper valves and piping systems has been delayed until March 1975. Petitioner alleges, and the Agency concurs, that the delivery delays were beyond the control of Petitioner. Petitioner then details a new compliance schedule which anticipates testing of the system by June 2, 1975. Petitioner further alleges that a date of July 1, 1975, would provide a needed cushion for slippage. The Agency agrees that the proposed timetable is reasonable in light of the equipment delays.

It must be noted that this is the second delay in Petitioner's original compliance plan (see PCB 74-150). Unexpected design problems necessitated a six-months' delay until January 30, 1975, and here we have equipment delays necessitating yet another six months. The Board, however, feels that in both instances Petitioner has diligently attempted to comply in as short a time as possible. It is hoped that this will be the last such delay - any further variance requests will require detailed explanation from Petitioner.

The environmental impact caused by Petitioner's emissions is alleged to be small, in that they are located in a sparsely settled area, and the Agency has had no public comment on the facility. Details in regard to environmental impact were spelled out in the Board's first Opinion on this matter (PCB 72-441), and would still apply in the instant case.

The Board feels that the installation of a wet scrubber to eliminate particulates and to a lesser degree sulphur dioxide is an excellent compliance plan, and one that should be encouraged. Balancing all factors, the Board finds an extension of the variance to be in order.

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

ORDER

IT IS THE ORDER of the Pollution Control Board that Petitioner is granted variance from Rule 2-2.53 until May 31, 1975, and from Rules 203 and 204 from May 31, 1975, until July 1, 1975, subject to the following:

All conditions imposed by the Board in PCB 74-150

shall remain in full force and effect.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the above Opinion and Order was adopted by the Board on the 19th day of December, 1974, by a vote of 4 to 0.

Christan L. Moffett