

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
November 13, 1975

WESTERN ILLINOIS POWER)
COOPERATIVE, INC.,)
)
Petitioner,)
)
v.) PCB 75-364
)
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
Respondent.)

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

This case involves a request for Variance submitted by Western Illinois Power Cooperative, Inc. (WIPCO) on May 6, 1975. WIPCO's petition seeks a Variance from Rules 203 (particulates) and 204 (sulfur dioxide) of the Air Pollution Regulations from September 30, 1975 to November 30, 1975. PCB Regs., Ch. 2, Rules 203, 204. No hearing was held in this matter. A Recommendation from the Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) was received on October 6, 1975.

The Board first granted WIPCO a Variance from the corresponding Rules and Regulations Governing the Control of Air Pollution, promulgated by the old Air Pollution Control Board, predecessor of this Board, on January 30, 1973. PCB 72-441 (January 30, 1973). Subsequent Variances were granted on January 24, 1974, July 18, 1974, and December 19, 1974. PCB 73-471, PCB 74-150, PCB 74-394, respectively. In PCB 74-394 the Board recognized that the old Rules and Regulations Governing the Control of Air Pollution would be superseded on May 31, 1975, and granted a further variance from Rules 203 and 204 of the Board's Regulation until July 1, 1975. The most recent variance granted was from July 1, 1975 until September 30, 1975, in PCB 75-192 (August 14, 1975). All of the Variances were subject to the conditions contained in the original Variance grant, as well as further conditions added in subsequent Variances.

The original Variance and all subsequent ones have been granted to allow the installation of a wet scrubber control system at WIPCO's Pearl Station generating plant in Pike County, Illinois. The plant is a 22 megawatt coal-burning steam turbine power plant, with one unit fired by four burners; it is presently equipped with a mechanical multiple cyclone dust collector. The four burner single unit exhausts into a 203 foot stack.

WIPCO once again claims that factors beyond its control have prevented completion of the wet scrubber system. In this instance, a water supply pump for the wet scrubber developed excessive vibration during testing, and had to be returned to the manufacturer for repairs. As a result, WIPCO has submitted a new schedule calling for final completion of the project by November 30, 1975.

The Board finds no reason to change its earlier approval of the compliance plan approved in the original Variance, PCB 72-441. The requested period is short, the hardship found in our earlier Opinions remains valid, and no new evidence of hardship to the public has been found. In both the original Variance Opinion in PCB 72-441, and the most recent Opinion in PCB 75-192, the Board found that the ambient air quality in the area surrounding the WIPCO plant was well within national standards for both particulates and sulfur dioxide; we again find that to be the case. Based on these factors, and WIPCO's continuing good faith in attempting to install a wet scrubber which will result in full compliance with our Regulations, this Variance will be granted.

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 Western Illinois Power Cooperative, Inc., is granted a Variance from Rules 203 and 204 of Chapter 2: Air Pollution, from September 30, 1975 until November 30, 1975, subject to all applicable conditions imposed in the previous cases in this matter, PCB 72-441, PCB 73-471, PCB 74-150, PCB 74-394, and PCB 75-192.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order were adopted on the 13th day of November 1975 by a vote of 4-0.


Christan L. Moffett, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board