

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
January 17, 1974

GRANITE CITY STEEL COMPANY,)
)
 Petitioner,)
) PCB 73-437
 vs.)
)
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
 Respondent.)

Leah S. Hamilton, Attorney, appeared on behalf of Petitioner.
Thomas R. Casper, Attorney, appeared on behalf of the
Environmental Protection Agency.

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

On October 26, 1973, Petitioner, Granite City Steel, Division of National Steel Corporation, filed its Petition For Extension of Variance. Petitioner operates an integrated steel plant located in Granite City, Madison County, Illinois. The instant Petition seeks extension of a variance initially granted by this Board in PCB 70-34 and subsequently extended in PCB 73-26.

The subject of this Variance extension is Petitioner's sinter process main windbox and pug mill. The main purpose of the sinter process is to reclaim various material fines developed from other steel processes to produce a useable product for the blast furnace. The sinter machine consists of a traveling grate, 8 ft. wide and 128 ft. long. The sinter process fuses the blended material producing a clinker material suitable for charging in the blast furnace. In the process, air is drawn through the bed to complete combustion and to cool the bed of hot clinker. Small dust particles in the bed become entrained in the exhaust gas stream and must be collected prior to discharging them into the atmosphere. In order to remove these fine particles, control equipment consisting of two banks of multiclones were originally installed. More recently, Petitioner has installed a high energy scrubber.

This Board on April 25, 1972 (PCB 70-34) granted Petitioner a one year Variance to install control equipment (Venturi Scrubber System) on the sinter process (paragraph 9 of Stipulation, PCB 70-34). This time period contemplated extensions of the

Variance until the 19 1/2 months construction schedule was completed. Extensions of the Variance were to be based on Petitioner maintaining satisfactory progress toward the completion of the project. Nineteen and one-half months from April 25, 1972 contemplated a completion date of December 10, 1973. On January 25, 1973, Petitioner filed a Petition for extension of the previously granted Variance. This Petition was docketed PCB 73-26. The opinion of the Board in that cause (dated May 31, 1973) granted Petitioner an extension of the Variance for the sinter process main windbox and pug mill for 7 1/2 months.

The original Board Order (PCB 70-34), the Petition for extension (PCB 73-26), and the Agency Recommendation (PCB 73-26), all contemplated a Variance extension for the sinter process main windbox and pug mill for 19 1/2 months or until December 10, 1973.

By the instant Petition, Petitioner requests an additional 78 days, or until February 26, 1974, to complete the following items on the scrubber:

1. Modify, repair, or replace the electrical switch gear run circuit breaker so that this electrical equipment will remain actuated during operation of the system.

2. Eliminate the vibration in the "pulling" fan to permit the system to operate without interruption.

3. Eliminate cavitation at the intake pipe to the "Kinpactor" pump.

4. Clean and remove accumulation of foreign matter on instrument and controls for the system to permit reliable operation.

5. Calibrate and reset all instruments and controls.

6. Correct miscellaneous electrical wiring problems.

Paragraph 12 of the Order of April 25, 1972 provides:

"12) Failure of Granite City Steel Company to comply with any term of this Stipulation or of Exhibit A hereto shall not result in any forfeiture or penalty if occasioned by Act of God or the public enemy, accidental fire or explosion, flood, war, riot, sabotage, accident, government priority or other action by any state or federal governmental authority or local governmental authority other than relating to pollution control, strike, slowdown, lockout, or work stoppage or labor trouble of any kind whatsoever,

failure of supply of materials, parts or equipment, or failure, delay, or refusal of any designer, fabricator, or supplier to design, fabricate, deliver, or install as agreed any equipment specified herein, provided such failure, delay or refusal is not due to the fault of Granite City Steel Company, or if occasioned by any other circumstance, whether of like character or different character from those enumerated above, which circumstance is beyond the reasonable control of the Company." (emphasis supplied).

Petitioner alleges that it has experienced delays excused under Paragraph 12, and beyond its control, totalling 78 days in the installation of the scrubber system. In each instance, Petitioner submitted to the Agency a timely advisory letter notifying the Agency of the delays being experienced and the causes thereof.

Petitioner has submitted documentary evidence to substantiate its claim that the delay of 78 days in its project completion schedule was caused by forces beyond its control: bad weather, strike or labor trouble and failure of suppliers to perform as agreed. All of these causes of delay are excused under Paragraph 12 of our Order of April 25, 1972. The Agency is of the opinion that the delays were not caused by Petitioner and that the 78-day extension is reasonable.

We find Petitioner's evidence convincing and will, accordingly, grant the extension of variance as requested, subject to certain conditions.

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, Granite City Steel, be granted an extension of the variance originally granted in PCB 70-34 and subsequently extended in PCB 73-26 until February 26, 1974, subject to the following conditions:

1. All applicable conditions in the Order of the Pollution Control Board in PCB 70-34 and PCB 73-26 shall remain in full force and effect.

2. Petitioner shall notify:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Air Pollution
Region IV Office
115A West Main Street
Collinsville, Illinois 62234
(Telephone 618/345-0700)

one day in advance of any outage of the gas cleaning device.

3. That during any outage of the gas cleaning device, Petitioner shall blend and sinter materials of the lowest dusting potential.

4. Petitioner shall perform a stack test within 120 days after completion of the modifications. Petitioner shall notify:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Air Pollution Control
Region IV Office
115A West Main Street
Collinsville, Illinois 62234
(Telephone 618/345-0700)

at least five (5) days in advance of said stack test and allow Agency observation if desired. Petitioner shall submit the results of said test to:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Air Pollution Control
Control Program Coordinator
2200 Churchill Road
Springfield, Illinois 62706

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the above Opinion and Order was adopted on this 17th day of January, 1974 by a vote of 5-0.

Christan L. Moffett