

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
July 26, 1973

BURLINGTON NORTHERN, INC.)
)
) Petitioner,)
)
) v.) PCB 73-175
)
) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
) Respondent.)

Barry N. Gutterman on behalf of Petitioner;
Steven C. Bonaguidi, Assistant Attorney General, on behalf of
Respondent.

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

Petition for variance from Rule 3-3.112 of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Control of Air Pollution was received by this Board on April 30, 1973. Petitioner, Burlington Northern, Inc., owns and operates a railroad locomotive and passenger car service and storage facility in Chicago, County of Cook, Illinois.

Petitioner requests a variance to permit the operation of three coal-fired steam boilers emitting particulate matter beyond the limits prescribed by the Air Pollution Control Regulations until and during the retirement of these boilers through the procurement of steam from the Chicago Union Station. Petitioner uses the boilers' output for the following operations: operation of three air compressors which supply air to check brakes and for maintenance procedures; operation of two steam jacketed kettles used to clean parts; heating of nine buildings; heating of 75 Amtrak and 92 suburban cars; provision of hot water for dining car facilities; and provision of showers for employees.

An average of approximately 40 tons of soft coal are burned per day. This coal has the following average analysis: 0.81% Sulfur, 11.72% Ash, 31.32% Volatile matter, 4.92% Moisture and 12,182 BTU/Pound. Petitioner estimates that when burning the above-described coal particulate emissions of about 6.45 pounds per million BTU are discharged. In addition, Petitioner calculates that the following contaminants are discharged: Carbon monoxide - 31b/hour, hydrocarbons as CH₄ - 1.6 lb/hour, nitrogen oxides as NO₂ - 24 lb/hour and SO₂ - 48 lb/hour.

During the summer months, only one of the three boilers will be running, one will be on standby and the third will be down for maintenance. Petitioner's facilities are located in a highly industrial area, and, as of the date of the investigation, no complaints had been received by the Agency regarding the operation of the coal-fired boilers.

There is no pollution control equipment on the stack of Petitioner's power plant. The proposed means of controlling emissions is to shut down this plant when arrangements to procure steam from another source have been completed.

Petitioner's Compliance Schedule, which has received Agency approval, provides for complete abandonment of the existing coal-fired boilers and steam driven air compressors with steam requirements to be purchased from the Chicago Union Station Company and compressed air to be furnished by a new electric driven compressor. One combination natural gas / light oil fired boiler will be installed in the Chicago Union Station Company Power Plant Building. Petitioner has received assurance from Peoples Gas, Light and Coke Company that sufficient gas will be provided to meet requirements. Complete compliance can be expected by November 1, 1973.

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

IT IS THE ORDER of the Pollution Control Board that variance be granted to enable Petitioner to operate its steam boilers until November 1, 1973 subject to the following conditions:

1. Petitioner shall notify the Agency of the completion of its plans and specifications.
2. Petitioner shall notify the Agency of the completion of its variance program on or before November 1, 1973.

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 10th day of November, 1973, by a vote of 4 to 0.

