

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

November 22, 1974

PRECISION FABRICATOR, INC. and)
CITY OF SOUTH BELOIT,)
)
Petitioners,)
)
vs.) PCB 74-337
)
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
Respondent.)

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

Petitioners seek variance from a sewer extension ban in order to connect a metal fabrication plant to the sewer system of the City of South Beloit. The ban has been imposed by the Agency pursuant to the requirements of Rule 921 of Chapter 3, Water Pollution Regulations.

The record reveals that the City of South Beloit operates a sewage treatment facility employing brush aeration providing secondary treatment for a design average flow of 1 million gallons per day and a maximum flow of 2.5 mgd. After receiving chlorination the plant effluent is discharged directly into the Rock River. Influent flows exceeding 2.5 mgd are by-passed to the Rock River without receiving even primary treatment. Storm water infiltration has been a problem. Flows in the past have reached 5 mgd at times but the City has expended \$100,000 to curtail excessive infiltration and did thereby reduce the average influent flows to 3.3 mgd for the months of January through December 1973.

This plant is required to meet the following standards: 20 mg/l for BOD, 25 mg/l for suspended solids and 400 per 100 ml. for fecal coliform. Grab samples taken in 1974 showed the plant consistently meeting the standard for suspended solids and slightly over the standard for BOD on only one occasion. However, fecal coliform counts substantially exceeded the limitation on every date samples were taken with counts ranging from 2,000 per 100 m/l to 32,000 per 100 m/l.

The chief products of Precision Fabricators are weldments varying from sheet stock to heavy plate stock. However, the only facilities that will require sewer connection are the toilets and basins. These

facilities provide accommodations for 13 full-time employees in the day shift and 7 second shift employees. The company has existed at its present location for a number of years and was serviced by a private sewage disposal system until the "Easter weekend" flood of 1973 which rendered this private system inoperative. Since the Spring flood of 1973 the septic system has remained flooded and attempts to drain the septic field have been unsuccessful. The Agency agrees that ground water conditions may make proper operation of a septic system impossible.

At the present time sewage from this septic system is spilling upon the top of the ground causing a serious nuisance and health hazard. The President of Precision Fabricators states that the sewage problem interferes with the hiring of new employees presumably because potential employees do not wish to work in such unhealthy conditions. He states that he needs 25 men to handle his work backlog but that two more men are now quitting and he cannot maintain the shop with just 11 people on his work force. The President states that if his Company is not granted a permit to attach to the sewer the Company will be forced out of business.

The plan is to construct a 310' extension to the existing sewer line of the City of South Beloit. According to Thomas Nee, a Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor, this sewer connection is "the most economically feasible alternative, considering the life of the system and the ground water condition for a new septic or holding tank installation". Mr. Nee also states that the extension will cause no overflows upstream or downstream of the connection.

The Agency states that the additional load from the Petitioner would be inconsequential at the South Beloit sewage treatment plant and recommends that the variance be granted.

The Board finds that the faulty septic system causes a health hazard which is a substantial hardship to Precision Fabricator, Inc., its employees and the public generally. The health hazard will be eliminated by a sewer connection to the South Beloit sewage system. The health hazard apparently cannot be reduced by minor maintenance of the existing septic system. Therefore, the variance will be granted and the parties urged to take the necessary steps to make this sewer connection as soon as possible.

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

ORDER

It is the Order of the Illinois Pollution Control Board that Petitioners, Precision Fabricators, Inc. and City of South Beloit, be granted variance from the sewer extension ban in order to connect the metal fabrication plant at 200 Oak Grove Avenue to the sewer system of the City of South Beloit. Petitioner Precision Fabricators, Inc. shall apply for all necessary permits.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order was adopted this 22ND day of November, 1974 by a vote of 4 to 0.


