

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

July 18, 1974

WESTERN ILLINOIS POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.)
)
 Petitioner,)
)
 vs.) PCB 74-150
)
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,)
)
 Respondent.)

T. C. Rammelkamp, Attorney for Petitioner
Ronald A. Linick, Attorney for EPA

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

Western Illinois Power Cooperative, Inc. (WIPCO) generates electric power at its plant located in Pike County near the town of Pearl. The facility is a 22 megawatt coal burning steam turbine power plant consisting of one unit fired by four burners. In PCB 72-441 this Board granted Petitioner a variance from Rule 2-2.53 of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Control of Air Pollution for a period of one year "subject to extension by the Board" for the purpose of installing a wet scrubber for particulate control. In PCB 73-471 the variance was extended to July 31, 1974.

WIPCO now requests an additional six month extension of the variance stating that installation of the wet scrubber was delayed by design problems. Re-evaluation of the original plan indicated that the pH of the scrubber effluent would be 3.1 and that downstream of the demist vanes the pH would be 2.1. This necessitated the re-evaluation of the metals to be used for the fan and certain other equipment due to the effect of the low pH on the materials. In addition, current data on wet scrubbers discloses an unsatisfactory operating reliability because of particulate buildup on fan and blades, causing imbalance and necessitating frequent shutdowns for cleaning. The redesign of the installation will incorporate a dry induced draft fan downstream of the mechanical collector and in front of the wet gas cleaning device. This redesign is to eliminate or minimize the low pH problem as well as the imbalancing of the fan.

The new time schedule calls for start-up on December 16, 1974 and testing on January 6, 1975. WIPCO believes that January 30, 1975 is a realistic date for placing the scrubber in operation.

The Agency recommends that the Company be granted this extension of the variance. The EPA states "while there is a certain amount of dismay as a result of Petitioner's failure to comply by July 31, 1974 the Agency recognizes that scrubber technology for Petitioner's operation has not fully evolved. Therefore, the Agency believes that Petitioner should not be penalized for delays caused by changing technology. Agency engineers believe the additional six months requested by Petitioner is reasonable, and that no conditions are known at the present time to warrant a refusal of Petitioner's request."

We agree with the Agency and shall grant the six month extension of variance subject to conditions imposed in our prior Order.

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

ORDER

The variance granted to Western Illinois Power Cooperative, Inc. in PCB 72-441 and PCB 73-471 is extended until January 30, 1975 subject to the following conditions:

- a) WIPCO shall continue to submit quarterly reports to the Agency indicating its progress toward completion of its control program.
- b) WIPCO shall continue to blend fuels to minimize emissions from the Pearl facility, and shall include in its quarterly reports the types of fuel used and the percentages of each; and
- c) The performance bond in the amount of \$250,000 which was previously ordered shall be extended to January 30, 1975.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order was adopted this 18th day of July 1974 by a vote of 5 to 0.


Christan L. Moffett