

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
March 31, 1971

183rd TACTICAL FIGHTER GROUP	)	
ILLINOIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD	)	PCB #71-1
	)	
182nd TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT GROUP	)	
ILLINOIS AIR NATIONAL GUARD	)	PCB #71-12
	)	

Opinion and Order of the Board (by Samuel R. Aldrich).

PCB #71-1 and #71-12 are essentially the same except for location, hence a single opinion covers both cases.

The Board has decided to rule on the petitions for variance without hearings.

The 183rd Tactical Fighter Group, Illinois Air National Guard, Springfield, and the 182nd Tactical Air Support Group, Illinois Air National Guard, Peoria, seek variances from section 49 of the Act to openly burn approximately 300 gallons of jet fuel twice per month. The purpose of the burning is primarily to conduct realistic training for the fire fighting staff of the Air National Guard which is responsible for fire and crash rescue protection for commercial and private aircraft at the Capital Airport, Springfield, and the Greater Peoria Airport, Peoria. A secondary purpose accomplished along with the training mission is disposal of contaminated aircraft engine fuel.

Total burning time is usually only five to ten minutes during which smoke is discharged into the atmosphere.

The Agency conducted on-site investigations with the following results:

183rd, Springfield. The nearest residential home is 1/4 mile; next nearest is a cluster of homes 1/2 mile from the burning site. Several residents were contacted and registered no objection to the burning.

182nd, Peoria. The nearest neighbor is 3/4 mile from the site. Four residents were contacted and none objected to the granting of the variance. A letter was received objecting to the variance on the basis that one reason for the burning was to dispose of contaminated aviation fuel and suggesting that it could be clarified and reused. The Agency concluded that burning is necessary and is in the public interest. We accept the view of the Agency.

The hardship imposed upon the communities from granting the variances is minimal. The additional hazard to which aircraft users and operators would be subjected if training in fire fighting were inadequate is substantial.

The Agency recommended that the variance petitions be granted subject to conditions that would minimize the effects on the community.

The Board has approved a similar request, see *Deere and Co. v. EPA*, #70-20, December 22, 1970.

ORDER

The Board supports the position of the Agency and hereby grants the petitions for variance for one year to end March 31, 1972, subject to the following conditions:

1. That burning be confined to the period noon to 4:00 pm, when wind direction is away from the nearest residences, and when wind speed is more than 5 miles per hour.
2. Petitioners shall file a report with the Board by October 30, 1971, stating the number of training sessions conducted, the number of trainees, and a brief description of the weather conditions under which burning occurred in each instance.

I concur

I dissent

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I, Regina E. Ryan, Clerk of the Pollution Control Board, hereby certify that the Board adopted the above opinion and order this 31st day of March, 1971.

\_\_\_\_\_