

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO)
EXEMPTIONS FROM STATE) **R 05-20**
PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS)
FOR PLASTIC INJECTION MOLDING)
OPERATIONS)
(35 Ill. Admin. Code 201.146))

NOTICE OF FILING

TO: Ms. Dorothy M. Gunn
Clerk of the Board
Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 West Randolph Street
Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601
(VIA ELECTRONIC FILING)
(PERSONS ON ATTACHED SERVICE LIST)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on July 28, 2005, I filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board by electronic filing the CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS' FINAL COMMENTS, a copy of which is attached and hereby served upon you.

Dated: July 28, 2005 Respectfully submitted,

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS

By: /s/ Patricia F. Sharkey
One of its Attorneys

Patricia F. Sharkey
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CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF ILLINOIS'
FINAL COMMENTS

The record in this proceeding provides perhaps the most in depth review that any of the categorical exemptions under Section 201.146 has received in rulemaking proceedings before the Board.

The evidence presented in the hearings held on July 1 and 15, 2005 demonstrates that an exemption from state air pollution control permit requirements for plastic injection molding operations is justified based on the low level of emissions generated by these emission sources both individually and in the aggregate statewide. Information compiled and presented by CICI and its expert witness Mr. Lynne Harris in the hearings indicates there are approximately 500 plastic injection molding facilities in Illinois and the average facility (entire plant) is estimated to have emissions of only 0.2 TPY of VOM. (7/15/05 Hearing Tr. p. 16). The aggregate statewide VOM emissions from this category of sources is conservatively estimated to be approximately 100 tpy. (*Id.* p.16)

Individual plastic injection molding machines emissions range from a low of 0.002 tpy to a high of 0.2 tpy of VOM. (7/1/05 Hearing Tr. p. 38) Thus, this categorical

exemption is consistent with the *de minimis* emission exemption for individual emission units of 0.44 tpy proposed in pending rulemaking R05-19.

Testimony presented in hearing also demonstrated that this equipment is very similar (and, in fact, is identical in terms of emission generating portions of the equipment) to the equipment which is currently exempt under the categorical exemption governing extruders in Section 201.146(cc) (35 Ill. Admin. Code 201.146(cc)). Mr. Harris, Vice-President for Science and Technology of the Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc., testified that the emission estimates for plastic injection molding equipment are based on the same emission factor studies used to estimate emissions from extruders and are estimated to be less than the emissions generated by continuous extruders. (7/1/05 Hearing Tr., pp. 33, 35-36)

The record also includes an extensive discussion of the various ancillary equipment and activities involved with plastic injection molding and demonstrates that these ancillary exempted activities are performed at ambient or low temperatures and in enclosed equipment, and thus generate very little VOM or fugitive particulate emissions. (7/15/05 Hearing Tr. pp.28-70)

Finally, the record in this proceeding indicates this exemption is in the interest of both the regulated industry and the State of Illinois itself. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency supports this exemption. Mr. Donald Sutton, Manager of the Bureau of Air's Permit Section, testified that any permit for the plastic injection molding operations covered under this exemption would be a "permit in name only," with no regulatory limits or other requirements. (7/15/05 Hearing Tr. p. 77.) Mr. Sutton also agreed that "there is a point in time where it does not make sense to pursue small sources," and that

this is one of those cases. (*Id.* Tr. p. 77) In his Pre-Filed Testimony, Mr. Sutton stated, that as an economic matter the proposal will reduce costs as expanding the list of exempt operations will allow the State to conserve its resources for more significant emissions sources. (Pre-Filed Testimony of Donald E. Sutton, 7/13/05, p. 3.) Finally, no members of the public, other than representatives of plastic injection molding companies, were present at the hearings and no persons have otherwise expressed concern about this exemption. Nor is there any indication in the record of any adverse environmental or economic impact.

CICI would like to express its appreciation to the Board for providing CICI an opportunity to present evidence on behalf of its members in this proceeding. CICI believes this exemption is well justified and urges the Board to move quickly to adopt it.

Respectfully submitted,

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COUNCIL
OF ILLINOIS

By: /s/ Patricia F. Sharkey
One of Its Attorneys

Dated: July 28, 2005

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Patricia F. Sharkey, an attorney, hereby certify that I have served the Chemical Industry Council of Illinois' Notice of Filing and Final Comments upon:

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as indicated above, by e-mail and/or by depositing said document in the United States Mail, postage prepaid, in Chicago, Illinois on July 28, 2005.

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