

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

*Pollution - CARGILL*

# Cargill says odor will be eliminated

1979

By PATRICIA BOMBARD

CARPENTERSVILLE—Cargill, Inc. Wednesday received the go-ahead from the village zoning board to construct a thermal catalytic incinerator which company officials feel will eliminate the odor that has been annoying residents.

The zoning board approved a variance allowing the plant to erect a 65-foot exhaust tower on an incinerator which is designed to trap and burn the hydrocarbon fumes that have been escaping the plant. Those fumes have been identified as the source of the sweet-smelling odor often detected by residents in many areas of the village, according to plant officials.

The board approved the variance request at a special public hearing Wednesday night. About 20 residents of the village attended the hearing, which lasted nearly three hours. During that time, zoning board members at times questioned the credibility of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and residents and board members alike questioned the safety and effectiveness of the incinerator and the exhaust tower.

A few of the residents, who recalled two occasions in the past when they were evacuated from their homes because of fire danger at the plant, expressed concern that the incinerator may add to the potential of a serious fire or explosion.

But the main concern seemed to be whether or not the incinerator would actually eliminate the odor. Nearly all the residents present were from the Old Town section of the village, where the odor has permeated homes almost daily for a number of years.

Keith Long, Cargill plant supervisor, said the incinerator is part of the pollution control equipment the plant is required to install as the result of a suit brought by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

last year. He said it is the latest technology available for dealing with odor problems.

Long explained that all of the vents presently emitting fumes into the air will be tied together into a system that will lead to the incinerator. In the incinerator, at temperatures of 800 degrees or more, the hydrocarbons that are causing the odor will be broken down into harmless carbon dioxide and water.

Although Long could not guarantee that the incinerator would clear the air, he said it "will reduce the possibility of an odor and we feel this should stop the complaints."

Asked what would be the next step if the incinerator system does not eliminate the odor, Long said, "We're prepared to take any measure possible. But he stressed that the incinerator is the latest technology available for fighting odor pollution. "We can't do any more than we're doing now."

Long also explained that the company has a similar incinerator system on a plant in California and said that plant is now meeting California's air pollution requirements.

Long said the new pollution control equipment, which is being installed under order of the EPA, is costing the company \$350,000 at the outset and will cost \$50,000 annually to operate. He said the incinerator is a pollution control system only, and "is in no way tied to production."

Asked why Cargill, Inc. is willing to put out such an expense at this time, Long said the company has \$15 million invested in its Carpentersville plant and wants to remain in the village. He also said residents bothered by odor or noise should call the plant. Agreeing that it may not have been true in the past, Long added that residents will now

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# Odor eliminated...

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find plant officials cooperative in trying to eliminate problems.

The approval of the zoning variation came after a motion to have the issue postponed failed to pass. Zoning board member Michael Stulgate made the unsuccessful motion, adding as his reason that, "I am in no way assured that this (the incinerator) will work."

In his motion Stulgate asked that approval of the variance be postponed until the Village Board of Trustees could meet to discuss the incinerator with Cargill representatives and officials of the IEPA.

The motion failed, however, by a 4-2 vote. The other board member voting in favor of the postponement was Richard Sisler, who also said he wanted to wait for a guarantee from the IEPA that the incinerator would end the odor. Sisler commented that recent and past village involvement with the IEPA had often produced assurances that turned out to be false, and he would like to meet with officials personally to discuss the

issue. "Frankly, I am in a quandry about the EPA in this state," added Sisler.

The motion to approve the variance was made by board member Lawrence Bortolotti, who said a similar incinerator system is operating at his printing business in downtown Chicago and he feels it is successful.

The variance for the exhaust stack was required because the village has a 35-foot height limit on construction. At the 65-foot height, the exhaust stack will extend 20 feet above the level of grade behind the plant, according to Long.

Long said the carbon dioxide and water will rise from the stack at a temperature of about 400 degrees. At that temperature, Long estimated the stream of air will rise very rapidly and disperse without harming surrounding trees.

One resident at the hearing expressed concern that the new system may add to the noise coming from the plant, but Long assured those present that "we will enclose it if we need to" in order to muffle any noise.

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## Governments oppose

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special taxing districts and 23 other kinds of districts.

The rest of the package includes

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nobody has responsibility for the entire local property tax burden. There are too many units of local government, each trying to grab a share of

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