## STATE OF CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

In the Matter of the Petition of Bethlehem Steel Corporation for Review of Order No. 76-132 (NPDES Permit No. CAOOO1058), California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, and Request for Stay of Order No. 76-132.

Order No. WQ 77-2

## BY BOARD MEMBER DODSON:

Bethlehem Steel Corporation, hereafter referred to as petitioner, has submitted a petition to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) requesting review of Order No. 76-132 (NPDES Permit No. CA0001058), California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, containing waste discharge requirements for the petitioner's Los Angeles plant. The petitioner contends that the portion of Regional Board Order No. 76-132 affecting total chromium is inappropriate and improper. In addition to other relief, the petition requests that the State Board stay the effect of Order No. 76-132. In accordance with State Board regulations and the Notice of Hearing dated December 21, 1976, a hearing was held on January 10, 1977, to receive evidence related to the petitioner's request for stay.

At this time we will consider only petitioner's request for stay of the effect of that portion of Regional Board Order No. 76-132 affecting total chromium, and then only for the limited purpose of determining whether a stay as requested may appropriately be granted. We do not here decide the ultimate merits of any issue raised by the petition.

Petitioner contends that substantial harm will result if a stay is not granted; that no substantial harm will result to the public interest if a stay is granted; and that the petition raises substantial issues of fact and law. In support of these contentions petitioner asserts that it will suffer significant financial harm and will be exposed to criminal and civil liability regarding immediate compliance with Order No. 76-132 as it affects total chromium, unless a stay is granted. Petitioner stated that in order to remove chromium in its wastewater, as required by the terms of Order No. 76-132, it would be required to design and install an expensive process of questionable reliability to treat up to 350,000 gallons per day of wastewater. Petitioner testified that insofar as the wastewater it discharges contains no hexavalent chromium, and contains only a small increment of total chromium in addition to that of its supply water from the City of Vernon, no harm to the public interest would result if a stay were granted.

Based on a review of the entire record in this matter we find that:

1. The petition raises substantial issues appropriate for review.

2. Petitioner will be exposed to substantial financial harm if a stay is not granted.

3. There will be at present no substantial harm to interested persons or to the public if a limited stay related to total chromium is granted.

-2-

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, until further order of this Board, a stay of Los Angeles Regional Board Order No. 76-132 provisions A.2. and B.8. with respect to total chromium only is granted.

Dated: January 20, 1977

si- at .

We Concur:

/s/ Roy E. Dodson Roy E. Dodson, Member /s/ John E. Bryson John E. Bryson, Chairman

/s/ Don W. Maughan W. Don Maughan, Vice Chairman

/s/ W. W. Adams W. W. Adams, Member

/s/ Jean Auer Jean Auer, Member