## ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD October 5, 1995

| CITIZENS UTILITY COMPANY OF ILLINOIS,     | )                                    |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Petitioner,                               | į                                    |
| v.  | ) PCB 94-199 (Permit Appeal - NPDES) |
| ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, |                                      |
| Respondent.                               | )                                    |

ORDER OF THE BOARD (By E. Dunham):

On September 27, 1995, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) filed a "Motion for Further Extension of Time to Answer". The Agency requests an extension until March 29, 1996 to file its answer. The deadline in this matter has been waived through June 30, 1996. The parties are presently involved in discussions towards resolution of the issues on appeal. The Agency contends that the filing of the answer is not necessary at this time. The Agency believes that filing of the answer by March 29, 1996 will allow sufficient time for notice, briefing and decision by the Board. The Agency indicates that petitioner has no objection to the extension.

The Board encourages negotiated settlements of permit appeals, and does not object to the grant of an extension of time for filing the Agency's answer. The Board, however, also encourages expeditious resolution of cases before it. Granting an extension for filing an answer may provide excessive delay if the parties become aware that negotiations are not going to lead to a workable settlement.

The Board therefore grants the Agency's motion for an extension of time to file its answer. The Agency must file its answer within 30 days of any party's request for a hearing in this matter but no later than March 29, 1996.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dorothy M Gunn, Clerk

Illinois Follution Control Board