## ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD February 8, 1990

VILLAGE OF NORTH AURORA,

Petitioner,

v.

PCB 89-66
(Variance)

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

Respondent.

DISSENTING OPINION (by J.D. Dumelle, B. Forcade and M. Nardulli):

Radium in drinking water is a source of ionizing radiation to the tissue of persons who ingest it. If a single cell is affected and becomes cancerous and if the body's defenses do not eliminate the incipient tumor then cancer will occur.

On January 17, 1990 the <u>Chicago Sun-Times</u> carried an editorial titled "Radiation risks prove real". The first paragraph states:

The latest findings on the health risks of being exposed to low levels of radiation are not encouraging. A National Academy of Sciences panel recently concluded that the health risks of being exposed to low-level radiation have been badly understated. The risk of cancer, for example, is three to four times higher than previously estimated a decade ago by the academy.

It seems quite possible that when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency re-evaluates its drinking water standard for radium it may well tighten the standard instead of loosening it.

A denial of the lifting of restricted status would mean that additional persons would not be subjected to water containing radium in excess of the present Federal standard which is now apparently 3-4 times more dangerous then was thought.

Jacob D. Dumelle

Board Member

Bill 5. Forcade

Board Member

Michael L. Nardulli

Board Member

Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board