For immediate release September 19, 2002

CONTACT: Connie Newman 217/782-7630

Illinois Pollution Control Board Grants Provisional Variance to Seward Sanitary District

Chicago – On September 19, 2002, the Illinois Pollution Control Board granted a 45-day provisional variance from the effluent limits for chemical biological oxygen demand (CBOD) and total suspended solids (TSS) stated in the Seward Sanitary District's (District) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the 45-day period beginning September 17, 2002. The provisional variance will allow the District to inspect and repair two potential leaks in one of its lagoon cell dike walls at its facility located in Winnebago County.

On September 17, 2002, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) recommended that the Board grant the provisional variance. This request was docketed as PCB 03-029. The Board granted the provisional variance based on the IEPA's notification that compliance with the effluent limits for CBOD and TSS in the District's NPDES permit would impose an arbitrary or unreasonable hardship on the District. The applicable standards are contained in the District's NPDES permit (ILG580138).