

For immediate release
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Illinois Pollution Control Board Grants Provisional Variance to the City of Benton

Springfield – On December 5, 2002, the Illinois Pollution Control Board (Board) granted to the City of Benton (Benton) a 45-day provisional variance from monthly average chlorine residual, total suspended solids (TSS), and carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD) effluent limits in its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and in 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.120(b) and 304.141(a). The provisional variance will allow Benton to establish a biological growth in its newly repaired trickling filter at its wastewater treatment plant in Benton. The Board previously granted Benton a 45-day variance, which was effective from October 12, 2002 through November 27, 2002 for wastewater treatment plant repairs. Benton contends the biological growth could not be accomplished during the first provisional variance period because of factory delays in shipping new growth media and slower growth due to colder weather. The provisional variance period begins on November 28, 2002 and continues for 45 days or until monitoring results confirm that full biological growth is achieved on the new filter media, whichever occurs earlier.

On December 3, 2002, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) recommended that the Board grant the provisional variance. This request

was docketed as PCB 03-078. The Board granted the provisional variance based on the IEPA's notification that compliance with monthly average chlorine residual, TSS, and CBOD effluent limits in Benton's NPDES permit and in 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.120(b) and 304.141(a) would impose an arbitrary or unreasonable hardship on Benton.

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