

RECEIVED
BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD CLERK'S OFFICE

MAR 18 2003

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

CITY OF AUBURN

Petitioner,

v.

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY,

Respondent.

PCB 03-152
(Provisional Variance)

NOTICE

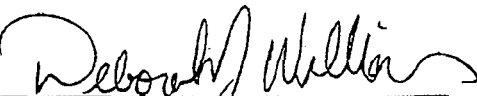
Dorothy Gunn, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center, Suite 11-500
100 West Randolph Street
Chicago, IL 60601

Joseph M. Powell, Mayor
City of Auburn
324 West Jefferson
Auburn, Illinois 62615

Please take notice that I have today filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board the original and nine (9) copies of the **PROVISIONAL VARIANCE RECOMMENDATION** of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, a copy of which is served upon you.

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

By:



Deborah J. Williams
Assistant Counsel
Division of Legal Counsel

Date: March 18, 2003
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276
217/782-5544

THIS FILING IS SUBMITTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

BEFORE THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

CITY OF AUBURN

Petitioner,

v.

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY,

Respondent.

PCB 03- 152

ILLINOIS EPA RECOMMENDATION

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency ("Illinois EPA") recommends that the requested provisional variance be granted subject to the conditions set forth in paragraph nine (9) below. ACTION MUST BE TAKEN BY THE ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD ("BOARD") WITHIN 2 DAYS OF NOTIFICATION OF THIS RECOMMENDATION FROM THE ILLINOIS EPA.

1. On March 13, 2003, with an amendment on March 17, 2003, the Illinois EPA received a request for a provisional variance from the City of Auburn. The provisional variance request letter is attached and incorporated as Exhibit A. Petitioner is requesting a provisional variance from effluent limits stated in its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permit IL0022403, which requires a carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand ("CBOD") monthly average of 25 milligrams per liter ("mg/l") and total suspended solids ("TSS") monthly average of 37 mg/l. The requested variance would allow the petitioner to 1) pump wastewater from lagoon #2 into Sugar Creek a few feet downstream of the NPDES permitted outfall and 2) relax CBOD and TSS permitted limits. The pumping duration is expected to be three to five days with daily sampling of

NPDES permit parameters. This will lower the water level in lagoon #2, allowing for the inspection and repair of the rock filter laterals, intake pipes and valves. During the pumping of lagoon #2 and the repair of the rock filter, wastewater will be treated in lagoon #1, then diverted around lagoon #2 to the NPDES permitted outfall. During normal plant operation, lagoon #1 removes 75% of TSS and CBOD. Effluent from the permitted outfall will be sampled weekly until the project's completion. The work is expected to be complete in 45 days.

2. Petitioner owns and operates a two-cell aerated lagoon system with unit operations and processes including rock filtration and flow measurement. The average daily inflow is 300,000 gallons per day and designed average flow of 620,000 gallons per day. The facility is located 15 miles southwest of Springfield in Auburn, Illinois. The effluent is discharged to Sugar Creek which is tributary to Lake Springfield (approximately 7 miles away).

3. In describing the need for provisional variance, petitioner explains that the variance will enable the petitioner to empty, inspect and repair one of the two lagoon cells. At the present time, the plant's rock filter (located in cell #2) is not functioning correctly, resulting in extremely low outflow and a higher than desired lagoon level. Due to the rock filter's design, any inspection of the rock filter piping and control valves is impossible under normal operating conditions. This high water level and the inability to regulate water outfall create potential for wastewater to overflow into one of the nearby tributaries of Sugar Creek. An overflow could also result in the washing away of the pond's berm, allowing wastewater to flood the surrounding area. Many homes are scattered along Sugar Creek downstream from the plant. The wastewater would eventually flow to Lake Springfield, the main source

of water for the City of Springfield, Illinois. In addition to the environmental impact, the city would be faced with the cost of berm reconstruction.

4. The petitioner states that due to plant design, operating on only lagoon #1 is the appropriate course of action. No other alternative method is available for this procedure.

5. The Petitioner has indicated, and the Illinois EPA concurs, that denial of the provisional variance request would impose an arbitrary and unreasonable hardship on the Petitioner. The first hardship on the community would be the potential flooding of homes along Sugar Creek. The second hardship for the community would be the breaching of the berm, causing severe leaking. This would necessitate extreme repairs and possibly several months of non-compliant discharge due to treating from only one cell.

6. The environmental impact on the receiving stream (Sugar Creek) caused by this variance request is expected to be minimal. The relief requested may result in an increase in CBOD to 50 mg/L and TSS to 70 mg/L during the draining of lagoon #2 and 35 mg/L for CBOD and 55 mg/L TSS for the remaining time of the variance.

7. There are no federal laws, which would preclude the granting of this provisional variance.

8. The Illinois EPA believes that no public water supply will be adversely affected by granting this provisional variance. One basis for the Illinois EPA's recommendation is to allow maintenance to be conducted in a timely manner to prevent the danger of washing out of a lagoon cell's berm which could adversely impact the public water supply intake at Lake Springfield.

9. The Illinois EPA recommends that the Petitioner be granted a variance from TSS and CBOD limits of its NPDES Permit IL0022403. This variance will allow the

petitioner to discharge waste material from cell #2 into Sugar Creek and increase TSS and CBOD effluent levels. The variance shall be subject to the following conditions:

- a. This variance shall begin on March 24, 2003 and continue for forty-five (45) days from that date or until completion of the project, whichever occurs earlier.
- b. During the 45 day variance period, the Petitioner will not exceed a CBOD monthly average limit of 50 mg/L and a TSS monthly average limit of 70 mg/L.
- c. Petitioner shall complete the inspection and repair related work on its rock filter system as expeditiously as possible. During the provisional variance period, the Petitioner shall operate the facility in such a manner so as to produce the best effluent possible.
- d. Petitioner shall continue to monitor and maintain compliance with all other parameters and conditions specified in NPDES Permit No. IL0022403. Petitioner shall conduct daily sampling of the pumping conducted pursuant to this provisional variance and weekly sampling of the effluent from its permitted outfall during the period of the provisional variance.
- e. Petitioner shall notify Jay Balmer of the Illinois EPA by telephone at 217/782-9720, when repairs are complete. Written confirmation shall be sent within five (5) days to the following address:

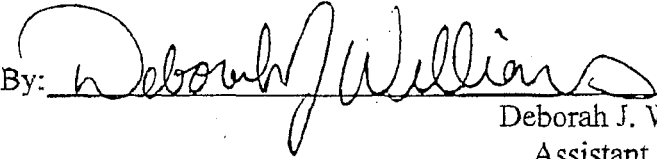
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water, Compliance Assurance Section
1021 North Grand Ave. East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
Attn: Jay Balmer

- f. Within ten (10) days of the date of the Board's order, the Petitioner shall execute

a Certificate of Acceptance and agreement which shall be sent to Jay Balmer at
the address indicated above.

Respectfully Submitted,

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

By: 

Deborah J. Williams
Assistant Counsel
Division of Legal Counsel

Date: March 18, 2003

1021 North Grand Ave. East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
217/782-5544

Exhibit A

First Ward
NORMAN BRAND
CAROLYNN BEROLA

Second Ward
MARK KESSLER
JIM HILLIGOSS

City of Auburn

JOSEPH M. POWELL, Mayor

GALE PRUITT, City Clerk

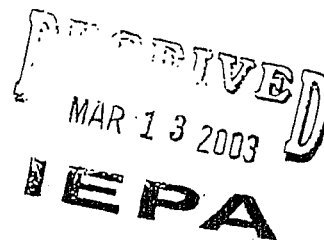
GERALDINE BOYD, City Treasurer

Third Ward
JOE CASSEL
WILLIAM COWLES

Fourth Ward
VIC DEVOS, JR.
WAYDE RATHGEBER

March 11, 2003

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Water Pollution Control
2200 Churchill Road
Springfield, IL 62706



Re: Auburn Wastewater Treatment Plant
NPDES permit No. IL0022403
(Request for Provisional Variance)

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Auburn, is hereby requesting a "Provisional Variance" be granted, under section 35(b) of the Environmental Protection Act (IL. Rev. Stat. 1979, CH. 111, Par. 1035 (b)), for a period of 45 days.

We offer the following information as outlined in section 180.202 of the requirements for the application, which are as follows:

1. We hereby request that the present NPDES permit requirements of 25mg/L CBOD (monthly avg.) and 37 mg/L TSS (monthly avg.) be relaxed to a level of 45mg/L CBOD and 65 mg/L TSS, along with the monthly average and weekly average respectfully relaxed for load limits (LBS/day) for these parameters. These readings are based upon data from lower levels of cell #2. After cell #2 is drained and taken offline plant effluent should be closer (yet still exceed) the current permit requirements.
2. The City's treatment plant consists of two aerated lagoons ran in series (please see attached map) with an average daily inflow of 300,000 gallons per day (during dry weather) and a designed average flow of 620,000 gallons per day.

At the present time the plant's rock filter (located in Cell #2) is not functioning correctly, resulting in extremely low outflow and a higher than desired pond level. Due to the design, any inspection of the rock filter piping and control valves is impossible under normal operating conditions. This high water level and inability

to regulate water outfall create potential for wastewater to overflow into one of the nearby tributaries. An overflow could also result in the washing away of the ponds berm, allowing even more wastewater into the surrounding area. In addition to the environmental impact the city would be faced with rebuilding the berm, which would no doubt be very expensive.

The tributaries, located on the north and east sides of the plant quickly find their way into Sugar Creek. Many homes are scattered along Sugar Creek downstream from the plant. The creek eventually (approximately 7 miles) finds its way into Lake Springfield, the main source of water for the City of Springfield.

We request a start date of March 24, 2003. This is due to availability of equipment and in an effort to complete the inspection and any needed repairs ahead of the expected spring rains. Hopefully sparing any undue hardship to the plant and surrounding environment.

Sequence of inspection and repair is as follows:

- A. During drawdown of Cell#2 and while any repairs are being made wastewater will be treated in Cell #1 and routed though a 20" bypass line to the effluent structure. Cell #1 holds approximately sixteen million gallons of wastewater and removes 75% of suspended solids and CBOD during normal plant operation.
- B. Once Cell #1 has been routed to the effluent structure, Cell #2 will be isolated and drawn down using a six-inch trash pump. Drawdown is expected to take 3 to 5 days (depending upon how many hours per day the pump will run) before the water level is low enough to allow inspection. Pumped wastewater will be allowed to flow along the grass in a sheet of water before reaching a storm water intake that sends the water just a few feet downstream from the plants outfall pipe. Samples will be obtained from the pump discharge as drawdown occurs.
- C. After Cell #2 has been pumped down to about three feet from the bottom, 12" pipe plugs will be removed to allow a televised inspection of the rock filter laterals and intake pipes. The two telescoping valves that regulate pond's level will also be inspected as will piping below the valves.
- D. Hopefully this inspection will reveal what repairs are needed and those repairs will be made during the 45 day provisional variance.

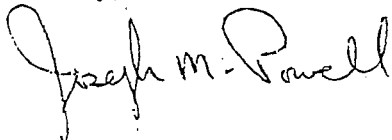
The discharge point will remain the same throughout the inspection and during any repairs. Discharge normally flows into Sugar Creek and into the Sangamon County River Basin.

- MAR 18 2003 12:02 211023001 211023001 1.11
3. Pursuant to the necessary procedures as previously outlined above, the present treatment efficiency will be reduced, thereby making it impossible to meet effluent criteria as required by the city's current NPDES Permit.
 4. The City of Auburn currently operates under NPDES permit No. IL0022403.
 5. Due to plant design we feel operating on only Cell #1, while inspection and repairs take place, is the most appropriate course of action. We see no other alternative method available for this procedure.
 6. At the present time there are no other board orders in effect regarding the City of Auburn's activities, nor any other matters currently before the board related to the City of Auburn.
 7. The City of Auburn requests that the effective date of the provisional variance be flexible so that our repair procedures, if necessary due to any unforeseen circumstances, will be able to utilize the full 45 days requested. The city will notify the EPA the day our efforts begin.

Hopefully, with this variance and quick action by the City of Auburn, the necessary repairs can be made before the spring rains come. This would prevent a dangerous overflow condition and a costly repair job.

If any further information should be required to allow the variance to be granted, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,



Mayor
City of Auburn

First Ward
NORMAN BRAND
CAROLYNN BEROLA

Second Ward
MARK KESSLER
JIM HILLIGOSS

City of Auburn

JOSEPH M. POWELL, Mayor

GALE PRUITT, City Clerk

GERALDINE BOYD, City Treasurer

Third Ward
JOE CASSEL
WILLIAM COWLES

Fourth Ward
VIC DEVOS, JR.
WAYDE RATHGEBER

March 11, 2003

RECEIVED

MAR 17 2003

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Water Pollution Control
2200 Churchill Road
Springfield, IL 62706

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NPDES permit No. IL0022403
(Request for Provisional Variance)

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2. Auburn is located 15 miles southwest of Springfield and has a population of 4300. The City's treatment plant consists of two aerated lagoons ran in series (please see attached map) with an average daily inflow of 300,000 gallons per day (during dry weather) and a designed average flow of 620,000 gallons per day.

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RECEIVED

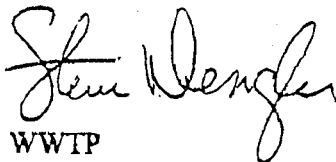
MAR 17 2003

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7. The City of Auburn requests that the effective date March 24, 2003 for the provisional variance to begin.

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WWTP
City of Auburn

First Ward
NORMAN BRAND
CAROLYN BEROLA

Second Ward
MARK KESSLER
JIM HILLIGOSS

City of Auburn

JOSEPH M. POWELL, Mayor
GALE PRUITT, City Clerk
GERALDINE BOYD, City Treasurer

Third Ward
JOE CASSEL
WILLIAM COWLES

Fourth Ward
VIC DEVOS, JR.
WAYDE KATHGEER

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

TO: JAY BALMER

COMPANY: ILLINOIS EPA

PHONE: 782-9720

FAX: 557-1407

FROM: Steve Dengler

COMPANY: Auburn City Office

PHONE: (217) 438-6151

FAX: (217) 438-3724

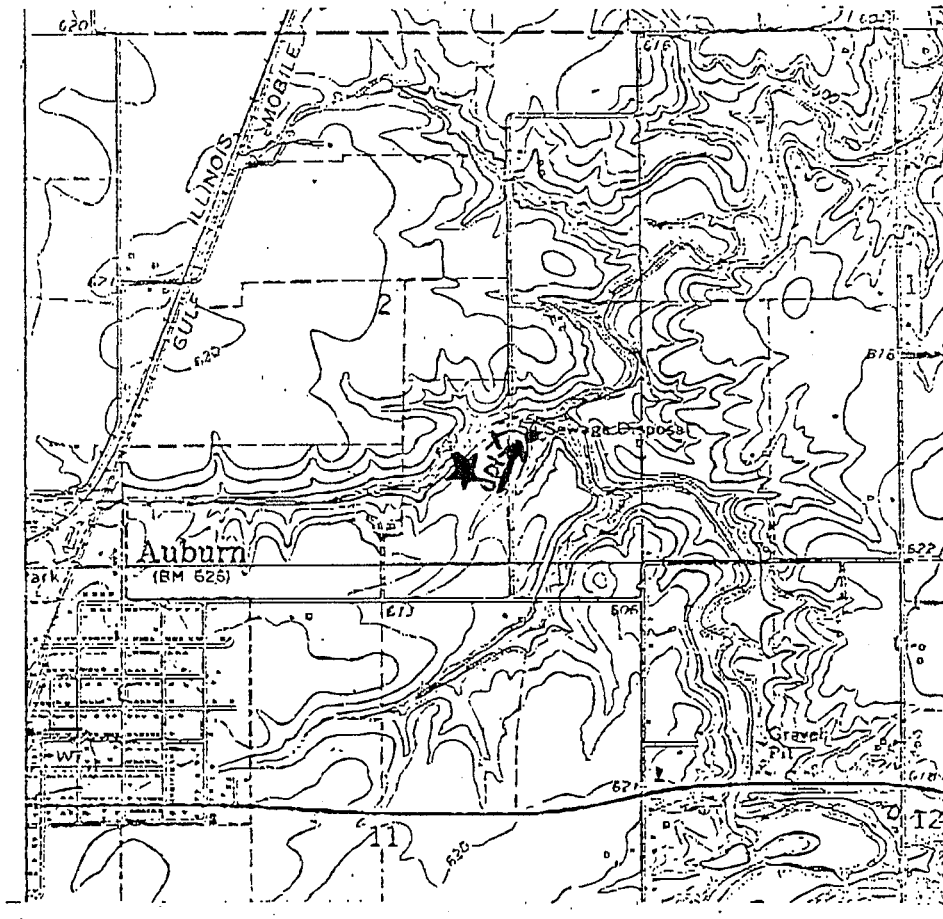
DATE: 3-17-03

TOTAL PAGES: 4 (including cover sheet)

COMMENTS: Revised Provisional Variance Request

AUBURN, ILLINOIS

Permit No. IL 0022403
Discharge No. 001



Name of Discharger CITY OF AUBURN

Total Discharges under this Permit 1

Discharge point Discharge Headwall

Type of discharge Domestic

Frequency of discharge Continuous

Latitude 39°36'00" Longitude 89°43'31" (Approx.)

Quarter Section, Section, Township, Range, P.M. SE 1/4 Sec. 2

County Sangamon T13N R6W 3E P.

Receiving Stream Tributary to Sugar Creek

* Effluent Sampling Location Discharge End of Final Tank

* Influent Sampling Location Inlet to Grit Tank

FACILITY: AUBURN STP
 IL NUMBER: IL0022403
 OUTFALL: 0010

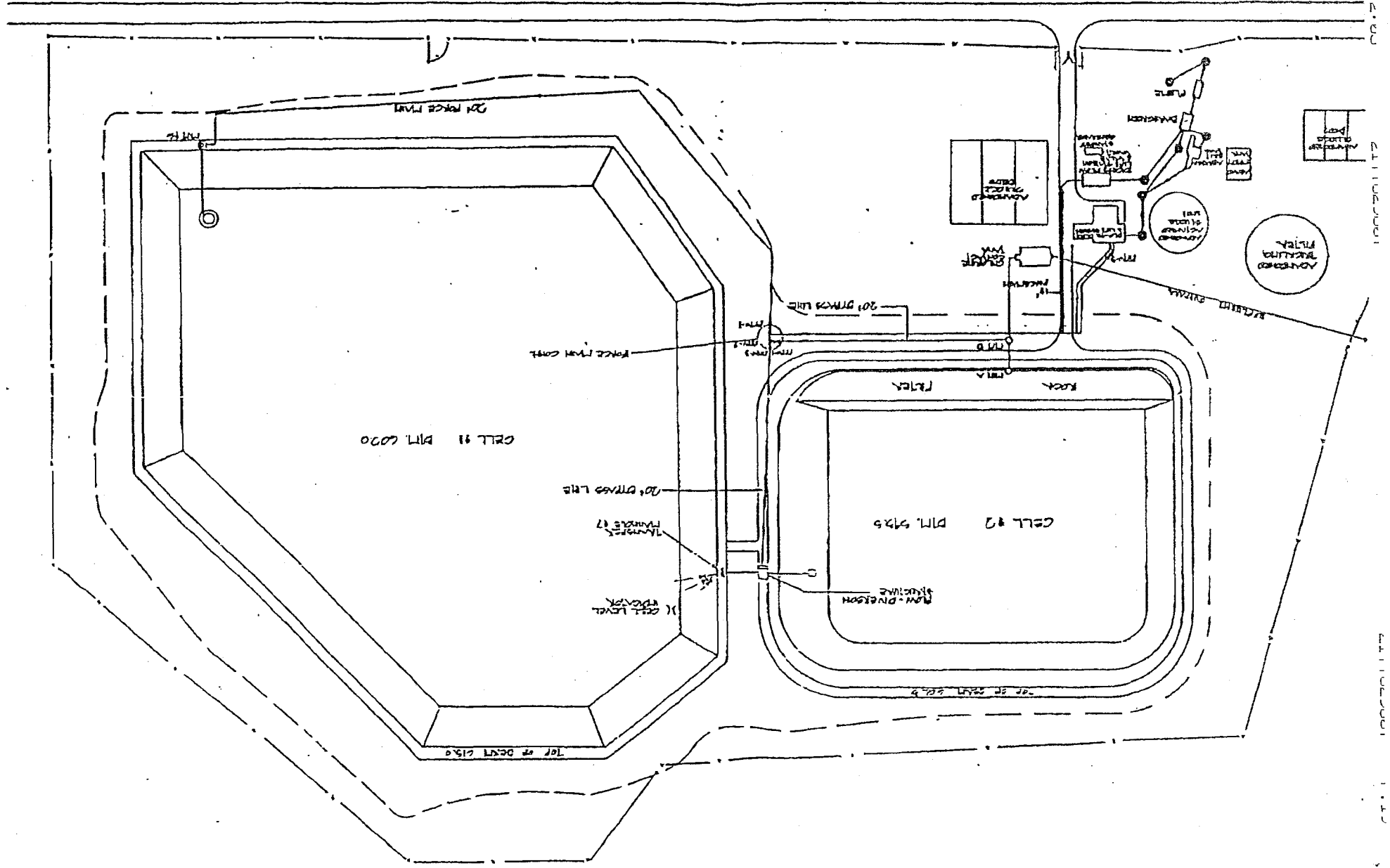
DMR SUMMARY

DATE	INFL FLOW		EFF FLOW		pH		TSS			CBOD			BOD			AMMONIA	CHLORINE	FECAL	NO	EXCESS
	AVE	MAX	AVE	MAX	MIN	MAX	INF	AVE	MAX	INF	AVE	MAX	INF	AVE	MAX	AVE	MAX	MAX	Discharge	FLOW
8/31/2001	0.481	0.620	0.481	0.620	6.9	7.2	78	38	49		12	12	181							
9/30/2001	0.361	1.022	0.361	1.022	7.0	7.5	78	40	55		8.5	9.0	197							
10/31/2001	0.599	1.894	0.599	1.894	7.5	7.9	124.5	43.5	78		9.5	10	177							
11/30/2001	0.504	1.5	0.504	1.5	7.2	7.5	51	6.5	11		10	12	183							
12/31/2001	0.929	2.800	0.929	2.800	7.5	8.6	19	1.3	1.7		9.3	11.0	154							
1/31/2002	0.579	3.68	0.579	3.68	7.6	7.7	44	3.8	5.8		13	16	191							
2/28/2002	0.959	2.6	0.959	2.6	7.4	7.8	84	13.5	16		17	17	105							
3/31/2002	1.20	2.6	1.20	2.6	7.3	7.8	84	14	17		18	18	105							
4/30/2002	1.5	4.6	1.5	4.6	7.4	7.7	79	9	16		14	14	84							
5/31/2002	2.6	6.1	2.6	6.1	7.8	7.8	26	17.25	17.5		12.5	13	73							
6/30/2002	1.3	4.9	1.3	4.9	7.7	8.0	34	2.9	3.3		11.3	12.5	76							
7/31/2002	0.481	1.2	0.481	1.2	7.8	7.9	197	4.2	6.7		9.3	10.5	186							
8/31/2002	0.417	0.820	0.417	0.820	7.7	7.9	197	5.6	7.0		8.4	9.6	123							
9/30/2002	0.353	0.800	0.353	0.800	7.7	7.9	158	8.6	17.5		8.75	12.5	218							
10/31/2002	0.279	0.407	0.279	0.407	7.9	7.9	158	12	20		10.9	15.8	230							
11/30/2002	0.231	0.326	0.231	0.326	7.3	7.8	171	9.75	17		8	8.5	181							
12/31/2002	0.219	0.470	0.219	0.470	7.9	8.0	222	29.5	31		12.6	14.3	153							

DWPC/FOS - Grab Sampling Data Springfield Region

Facility: AUBURN
NPDES: IL0022403
Outfall: 001

DATE	BOD5	CBOD5	Tot. Susp.	Lab pH	Ammonia	Nitrates	Oil/Grease	ROE	Sample Type	ID Number
9/4/2001		2 MG/L	8 MG/L	7.8 UNITS	2.5 MG/L				EFFL	B11838500
10/3/2001		3 MG/L	9 MG/L	7.8 UNITS	1.1 MG/L				EFFL	B11842200
11/7/2001		3 MG/L	15 MG/L	7.8 UNITS	0.41 MG/L				EFFL	B12105300
12/5/2001		4 MG/L	8 MG/L	8.0 UNITS	10 MG/L				EFFL	B12250600
1/8/2002		8 MG/L	6 MG/L	7.9 UNITS	12 MG/L				EFFL	B20057400
2/6/2002		10 MG/L	17 MG/L	7.7 UNITS	9.9 MG/L				EFFL	B20242400
3/6/2002		12 MG/L	30 MG/L	8.0 UNITS	7.3 MG/L				EFFL	B20395000
4/3/2002		10 MG/L	12 MG/L	7.9 UNITS	8.6 MG/L				EFFL	B20552700
5/2/2002		8 MG/L	25 MG/L	7.9 UNITS	2.2 MG/L				EFFL	B20793200
6/5/2002		6 MG/L	27 MG/L	8.1 UNITS	3.4 MG/L				EFFL	B20998800
7/10/2002		9 MG/L	16 MG/L	7.8 UNITS	2.1 MG/L				EFFL	B21257300
8/6/2002		7 MG/L	13 MG/L	7.9 UNITS	1.6 MG/L				EFFL	B21494700
9/9/2002		3 MG/L	10 MG/L	7.9 UNITS	1.7 MG/L				EFFL	B21733400
10/7/2002		6 MG/L	21 MG/L	8.0 UNITS	1.1 MG/L				EFFL	B21888900
11/12/2002		6 MG/L	22 MG/L	7.8 UNITS	5.8 MG/L				EFFL	B22179100
12/3/2002		9 MG/L	32 MG/L	8.0 UNITS	10 MG/L				EFFL	B22278100



STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
COUNTY OF SANGAMON)

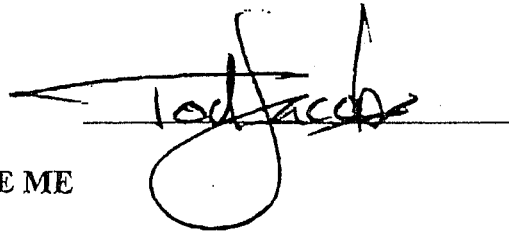
PROOF OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, on oath state that I have served the attached **PROVISIONAL VARIANCE** upon the persons to whom it is directed, by placing a copy in an envelope addressed to:

Ms. Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph St. Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601
(FAX and OVERNIGHT MAIL)

Joseph M. Powell, Mayor
City of Auburn
324 West Jefferson
Auburn, Illinois 62615
(FIRST CLASS MAIL)

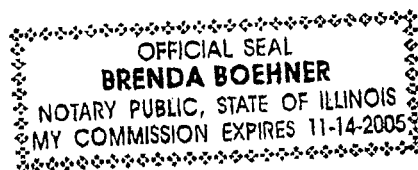
and mailing it from Springfield, Illinois on March 18, 2003, with sufficient postage affixed as indicated above.



SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME

this 18th day of March, 2003

Brenda Boehner
Notary Public



THIS FILING IS SUBMITTED ON RECYCLED PAPER