

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

Chicago – On March 20, 2003, the Illinois Pollution Control Board (Board) granted to the City of Auburn (Auburn) a 45-day provisional variance from monthly average carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD) and total suspended solids (TSS) effluent limits in its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The provisional variance will allow Auburn to pump wastewater from lagoon #2 into Sugar Creek a few feet downstream of the NPDES permitted outfall and to relax CBOD and TSS permitted limits. This will lower the water level in lagoon #2, allowing for inspection and repair of the rock filter laterals, intake pipes and valves.

The provisional variance period begins on March 24, 2003 and continues for 45 days or until completion of the project, whichever occurs earlier. During this time, Auburn must not exceed a monthly average limit of a) 50 milligrams per liter (mg/l) for CBOD and b) 70 mg/l for TSS.

On March 18, 2003, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) recommended that the Board grant the provisional variance. This request was docketed as PCB 03-152. The Board granted the provisional variance based on

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the IEPA's notification that compliance with monthly average CBOD and TSS effluent limits in Auburn's NPDES permit would impose an arbitrary or unreasonable hardship on Auburn.

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