

## **Board Adopts Final EtO Air Monitoring Rules**

On January 21, 2021, the Board issued a final opinion and order adopting new Part 249 of its air pollution regulations. Part 249 requires the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to monitor ambient air across Illinois for background levels of ethylene oxide (EtO). EtO is a flammable gas that has many uses, including sterilizing medical equipment. Under the adopted rules, IEPA must monitor for EtO in or around the locations of Northbrook, Schiller Park, Nilwood, Alton, and Bondville—where IEPA has monitoring stations. IEPA must monitor for six consecutive calendar months and place the air monitoring results on its website.

IEPA initiated this rulemaking by submitting a proposal to the Board on December 17, 2019. IEPA's monitoring for ambient EtO levels and the proposed rules for carrying out that monitoring are required by Section 9.16(n) of the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/9.16(n), added by P.A. 101-22 (eff. June 21, 2019)). For first notice, the proposed rules were published in the *Illinois Register* on January 31, 2020 (44 Ill. Reg. 2216). After holding two public hearings and receiving public comment, the Board issued a second-notice opinion and order on November 19, 2020, sending the proposed rules to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) for review. At its January 12, 2021 meeting, JCAR issued a certification of no objection to the proposed rules. The adopted rules took effect on January 25, 2021.

This rulemaking is captioned Proposed New 35 Ill. Adm. Code 249, Ethylene Oxide Ambient Air Monitoring, docket R20-18. Here is a link to the Board's [final opinion and order](#), which includes the text of the adopted rules. For more information, please contact Mark Kaminski at 312-814-3886 or [mark.kaminski@illinois.gov](mailto:mark.kaminski@illinois.gov).