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October 15, 2020

Erin Guthrie, Director
Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
100 W. Randolph St., Suite 3-400
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Re: Request for Economic Impact Study for Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 219, Organic Material Emission Standards for the Metro East Area, and 35 Ill. Adm. Code 211, Definitions and General Provisions, Board Docket R21-18

Dear Director Guthrie:

I write to request that the Department of Economic Opportunity conduct an economic impact study of the rulemaking proposal cited above. On October 5, 2020, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) filed a proposal to control emission of volatile organic materials (VOM) at aerospace operations in the Metro East area. IEPA reports that a source in the Metro East area intends to expand its aerospace facility. IEPA states that its proposal ensures that the most appropriate obligations are in place for the expanded facility.

For the reasons below, we would appreciate your response to this request no later than Monday, November 30, 2018.

Section 27(b) of the Environmental Protection Act requires the Board to

- (1) request that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity conduct a study of the economic impact of the proposed rules. The Department may within 30 to 45 days of such request produce a study of the economic impact of the proposed rules. At a minimum, the economic impact study shall address
 - (A) economic, environmental, and public health benefits that may be achieved through compliance with the proposed rules,
 - (B) the effects of the proposed rules on employment levels, commercial productivity, the economic growth of small businesses with 100 or less employees, and the State's overall economy, and
 - (C) the cost per unit of pollution reduced and the

variability in cost based on the size of the facility and the percentage of company revenues expected to be used to implement the proposed rules; and

- (2) conduct at least one public hearing on the economic impact of those new rules. At least 20 days before the hearing, the Board shall notify the public of the hearing and make the economic impact study, or the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's explanation for not producing an economic impact study, available to the public. Such public hearing may be held simultaneously or as a part of any Board hearing considering such new rules. 415 ILCS 5/27(b) (2018).

Although there is no decision deadline in this rulemaking, the Board today granted IEPA's motion to expedite review of its proposal and submitted the proposal to first-notice publication without commenting on its substantive merits. In the interest of administrative economy, the Board would like to combine the hearing required by Section 27(b) with a hearing on the substantive merits of IEPA's proposal. Under these circumstances, the Board respectfully asks that you determine whether the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity will conduct an economic impact study on the proposal and respond no later than Monday, November 30, 2020. If I or my staff can provide any additional information, please let me know.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Barbara Flynn Currie

Barbara Flynn Currie, Chair
Pollution Control Board

cc: Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Board

