

## **Board Proposes “Identical-in-Substance” Amendments to Wastewater Pretreatment Rules**

On March 18, 2021, the Board proposed—for public comment—amendments to Illinois’ wastewater pretreatment rules. The amendments will keep these rules “identical in substance” to those of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The Board’s rulemaking responds to two sets of amendments made by USEPA during the second half of 2020.

Specifically, on October 13, 2020, USEPA adopted the Steam Electric Reconsideration Rule. That rule created new subcategories of electric generating units (EGUs): EGUs initiating permanent cessation of coal combustion; and low utilization EGUs (LUEGUs). The federal rule changed the standards for discharge of flue gas desulfurization (FGD) wastewaters and bottom ash (BA) transport waters. The federal rule created a voluntary incentives program (VIP) for facilities meeting discharge standards early. The federal rule also provided for permit conditions protecting an EGU initiating permanent cessation of coal combustion or an LUEGU from losing its subcategory status due to specified unexpected changes in generation. In addition, on November 2, 2020, USEPA extended the compliance date for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting Rule from December 21, 2020 to December 21, 2025.

The Board’s rulemaking is captioned Wastewater Pretreatment Update, USEPA Amendments (July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020), docket R21-15. Here are links to (1) the Board’s [opinion and order](#), which includes the text of the proposed amendments, and (2) the Board’s [addendum](#), which provides tables of information concerning the rulemaking. For more information, please contact Michael McCambridge at [michael.mccambridge@illinois.gov](mailto:michael.mccambridge@illinois.gov).