

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

On June 17, 2021, the Board adopted amendments to Illinois’ wastewater pretreatment rules. The amendments keep these rules “identical in substance” to those of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The Board’s rulemaking responded to amendments adopted by USEPA during the second half of 2020, as detailed below. In addition, the Board included a few non-substantive corrections to base text that were not derived from USEPA actions.

During the second half of 2020, USEPA adopted the Steam Electric Reconsideration Rule, which revised the standards applicable to discharges of flue gas desulfurization (FGD) wastewater and bottom ash (BA) transport water. The Reconsideration Rule relaxed the former zero-discharge rule for BA transport water, extended compliance dates by two years, and created subcategories of dischargers for both waste streams.

Also during the second half of 2020, USEPA extended the compliance date for Phase 2 of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting Rule. The deadline for Phase 1 (basic facility and permit information) was December 21, 2016. For Phase 2 (all other reporting), it was December 21, 2020. USEPA extended the Phase 2 deadline 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 adopted 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).