

Board to Hold Public Hearings on Groundwater Quality Rulemaking Proposal

On December 7, 2021, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) filed a rulemaking proposal to update the Board's groundwater quality regulations. IEPA seeks to uphold the policy of the Illinois Groundwater Protection Act "to restore, protect, and enhance the groundwaters of the State, as a natural and public resource." 415 ILCS 55/2(b). Specifically, IEPA states that its proposed rule changes are designed to keep Illinois' standards "current as scientific data and methods supporting the development of groundwater quality standards have evolved." Among other amendments, IEPA proposes location-specific Class III groundwater quality standards for six dedicated nature preserves, as well as groundwater quality standards for six Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances or "PFAS."

By order of January 6, 2022, the Board accepted the proposal for hearing. Currently, the Board has two public hearings scheduled. The first hearing is set for March 9, 2022, and the second for April 4, 2022. Both hearings will be held by videoconference between Springfield and Chicago. Details are in the hearing officer's [notice and order](#) of January 13, 2022.

The rulemaking is captioned Proposed Amendments to Groundwater Quality (35 Ill. Adm. Code 620), docket R22-18. For more information, please contact Vanessa Horton at 312-814-5053 or vanessa.horton@illinois.gov.