

## **Board Proposes New Procedural Rules To Allow Electronic Filing**

On November 7, 2002, the Illinois Pollution Control Board adopted a first-notice opinion and order in the rulemaking entitled Revisions of The Board's Procedural Rules: 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101-130, R03-10. The Board initiated this rulemaking to allow electronic filing in all Board proceedings through the Board's new Clerk's Office On-Line or "COOL." Additionally, the rules will reflect amendments to the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5 (2000), *amended by* P.A. 92-0574, effective June 26, 2002) and the Administrative Procedure Act (5 ILCS 100 (2000), *amended by* P.A. 92-0330, effective August 9, 2001).

The Board has been a State leader in advancing the use of technology to increase the public's knowledge of Illinois environmental laws and regulations, and to encourage and simplify public participation in Board proceedings. The COOL system, which will be housed on the Board's Web site at [www.ipcb.state.il.us](http://www.ipcb.state.il.us), builds on the Board's efforts by enabling the public 24-hour electronic access to the entire public case file, which includes Board-created documents and documents filed with the Board. Additionally, COOL will also enable parties and participants to file documents electronically with the Clerk of the Board.

There are many benefits to COOL and the electronic filing process. One such benefit is a reduction in the amount of paper generated during adjudicatory cases and rulemakings pending before the Board. Under the proposed changes, filing with the Board could be done electronically, or by filing one original and one copy of a paper document with the Board instead of the current one original and nine copies. While the Board will encourage electronic filing of documents, the Clerk's Office will continue to accept paper filings. Another benefit is the ability to access the Board's electronic "file cabinet" to retrieve and search case or rulemaking files. Currently, the official case file is stored in the Clerk's Office in Chicago.

The Board will hold two hearings on the proposal. The first hearing will be held on December 12, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. at the Illinois Pollution Control Board Offices at 600 S. Second Street, Hearing Room 403 in Springfield. The second hearing will be held on December 19, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. at the James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph Street, Room 9-040 in Chicago. Written comments should contain the rulemaking title and docket number (R03-10) and should be sent to the Clerk's office at the following address:

Dorothy Gunn, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 West Randolph Street  
Suite 11-500  
Chicago, Illinois 60601

For more information about this rulemaking proposal contact Erin Conley at 217-782-2471, or by email at [www.conley@ipcb.state.il.us](mailto:www.conley@ipcb.state.il.us).