

## **Board Proposes Second Notice Amendments to MPS Rule for Downstate Coal-Fired Power Plant Emissions**

For second notice review by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, the Board, on June 20, 2019, proposed revised amendments to the Multi-Pollutant Standard (MPS) based on the testimony and comments received since second first notice publication. The MPS is a set of air pollution control rules in 35 Ill. Adm. Code 225 (“Control of Emissions from Large Combustion Sources”). At second first notice, the Board adopted a proposal that combined the two existing MPS groups into one group and replaced the existing rate-based emission standards for sulfur dioxide ( $\text{SO}_2$ ) and nitrogen oxides ( $\text{NO}_x$ ) with annual mass-based limits. The Board’s second first notice, however, differed from the original proposal filed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA): reducing the annual mass caps for both  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_x$ ; and further reducing those caps when units are permanently shutdown (“retired”) or temporarily shutdown (“mothballed”). The second first notice rule lowered the proposed annual mass-based caps for  $\text{SO}_2$  from 55,000 tons per year (tpy) to 44,920 tpy and for  $\text{NO}_x$  from 25,000 tpy to 22,469 tpy. For  $\text{NO}_x$  emissions during the ozone season, the Board kept IEPA’s proposed mass-based cap of 11,500 tons. Additionally, as with transfers of power plants under IEPA’s original proposal, the Board’s second first notice rule reduced the annual  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_x$  mass caps when units are retired or mothballed.

At second notice, the Board incorporated the amendments suggested by IEPA in its most recent testimony and comments. Specifically, IEPA proposed lower mass-based caps for  $\text{SO}_2$  (34,500 tpy) and  $\text{NO}_x$  (19,000 tpy), while retaining the 11,500-ton  $\text{NO}_x$  cap for the ozone season. The Board’s second notice rule also: requires reduction of at least 2,000 megawatts of electric generation by coal-fired electrical generating units in the MPS by December 31, 2019; adjusts the allocation amounts for transfers, permanent shutdown, and temporary shutdown; and clarifies the rule text. The Board also found that the second notice rule is protective of human health and the environment, economically reasonable, and technically feasible.

The rulemaking is captioned [Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 225.233, Multi-Pollutant Standard \(MPS\)](#), docket R18-20. Here are links to the Board’s June 20, 2019 [opinion and order](#) and [rule text](#). For more information, please contact Marie Tipsord at 312-814-4925 or [Marie.Tipsord@Illinois.Gov](mailto:Marie.Tipsord@Illinois.Gov).