

## **Board Adopts “Identical-in-Substance” Amendments to Ambient Air Quality Standards**

On December 17, 2020, the Board adopted rule amendments to Illinois’ ambient air quality standards. The amendments keep these standards “identical in substance” to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

During the first half of 2020, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) designated a new federal reference method for monitoring sulfur dioxide and a new federal equivalent method for monitoring nitrogen dioxide in ambient air. The Board incorporated the newly designated methods into the Illinois rules. USEPA also redesignated the Lemont and Pekin areas from “nonattainment” to “attainment” for the 2010 sulfur dioxide NAAQS, but this redesignation changes no NAAQS applicability in Illinois and requires no Board action.

The Board also adopted a limited number of corrective amendments that are not based on USEPA action taken during the first half of 2020. Significant among the corrections is the deletion of incorporations by reference of two appendices to 40 C.F.R. 50. The appendices support a NAAQS that has been both revoked by USEPA as to Illinois and removed by the Board.

The Board’s proposed rules were published in the *Illinois Register* on October 2, 2020 (44 Ill. Reg. 16081). On November 19, 2020, the Board held a public hearing concerning the proposed rules.

The Board’s rulemaking is captioned National Ambient Air Quality Standards, USEPA Amendments (January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020), docket R21-1. Here are links to (1) the Board’s [final 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 Hearing Officer Michael McCambridge at 312-814-6924 or [michael.mccambridge@illinois.gov](mailto:michael.mccambridge@illinois.gov).