

Board Proposes “Identical-in-Substance” Amendments to Drinking Water Rules

On June 1, 2023, the Board proposed—for public comment—amendments to Illinois’ primary drinking water regulations at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 611. The proposed amendments are “identical in substance” to rule amendments adopted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) during the second half of 2020 and the second half of 2021. Among its amendments, USEPA revised standards for lead in plumbing fixtures and plumbing materials, adopted the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), and approved new alternative test procedures (ATPs) for demonstrating compliance with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations.

In addition to the revisions prompted by USEPA’s updates, the Board found more amendments necessary. For example, the Board corrected the Radionuclides Rule. The Board also removed several rules applicable to unfiltered system suppliers using surface water sources and groundwater under the direct influence of surface water.

In addition, the Board found that unavoidable delay required extending the deadline for completing the amendments to October 1, 2023. The Board will receive public comments on this proposal for at least 45 days following its publication in the *Illinois Register*. The Board expects to file any adopted rules with the Secretary of State immediately after adoption, likely by September 18, 2023.

The Board’s rulemaking is captioned [SDWA Update, USEPA Amendments \(July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020\)](#) and [SDWA Update, USEPA Amendments \(July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021\)](#), dockets R21-10 and R22-2 (consol.). Here are links to (1) the Board’s [opinion and order](#) and (2) the Board’s [addendum](#), which includes the proposed rule text. For more information, please contact Carlie Leoni at 312-814-3886 or carlie.leoni@illinois.gov.