

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

On October 5, 2023, the Board adopted amendments to keep Illinois’ ambient air quality standards identical in substance to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The amendments reflect one action taken by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) during the second half of 2022. Specifically, USEPA updated its *List of Designated Reference and Equivalent Methods* to modify existing method designations and designated a new Federal Equivalent Method (FEM) for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) in ambient air.

The Board’s rulemaking is captioned National Ambient Air Quality Standards Update, USEPA Regulations (July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022), docket R23-15. Here is a link to the Board’s [opinion and order](#), which includes the text of the adopted amendments. For more information, please contact Vanessa Horton at [vanessa.horton@illinois.gov](mailto:vanessa.horton@illinois.gov).