

ILLINOIS REGISTER

POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD
PURSUANT TO 415 ILCS 5/10(H) and 1 ILCS 100/5-70(b)

Notice of Public Comment Period and Public Hearing
for State Implementation Plan (SIP) Submittals
for National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

The Pollution Control Board (Board) is accepting public comments and will conduct a public hearing on a prospective NAAQS SIP submittal to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The Board will accept written comments on the proposed rule that will form the basis for the SIP proposal until 45 days after the Notice of Proposed Amendments appears in the *Illinois Register*. A public hearing will be held on April 18, 2024. The Board presently anticipates adoption of amendments to the Illinois ambient air quality standards no later than October 12, 2024.

Section 10(H) of the Environmental Protection Act (Act) [415 ILCS 5/10(H)] requires the Board to do as follows:

[T]he Board shall adopt ambient air quality standards specifying the maximum permissible short-term and long-term concentrations of various contaminants in the atmosphere, those standards shall be identical in substance to the national ambient air quality standards promulgated by the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with Section 109 of the Clean Air Act [(42 U.S.C. §7409 (2018))].

The USEPA NAAQS are codified at 40 C.F.R. §50. The Board is required to adopt those exemptions using the "identical in substance" rulemaking procedure of Section 7.2 of the Act [415 ILCS 5/7.2]. The Illinois listing of these compounds is codified at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 243. On March 7, 2024, the Board adopted a proposal for public comment in docket R24-15 to initiate adoption of the latest USEPA amendments to and actions affecting the federal NAAQS during the second half of 2023.

October 12, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 70595)

USEPA updated the current ozone absorption cross-section to the recommended consensus based cross-section value. The new value is 1.2% lower than the current value and reduces the uncertainty in the value. The adoption of this updated ozone absorption cross-section could result in increases in measured ozone concentrations. However, given the existing sources of potential variability in monitoring data, it is unlikely that there will be any consistent measurable and predictable effect on reported data.

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SOS-CODE DIV.