

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

On October 2, 2025, the Board proposed amendments to keep Illinois’ primary drinking water standards (35 Ill. Adm. Code 611) “identical in substance” to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs). The proposed amendments reflect six actions taken under the NPDWRs by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) during 2024. Specifically, USEPA expedited approval of 93 alternative testing methods (ATMs) for analyzing contaminants in drinking water, added new regulations for six per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and updated the comprehensive Lead and Copper Rule.

Publication of the Board’s proposed amendments in the *Illinois Register* will start a period of at least 45 days during which anyone may file a public comment with the Board. In December of this year, the Board expects to adopt final amendments.

The Board’s rulemaking is captioned SDWA Update, USEPA Amendments (January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024), docket R25-1 and SDWA Update, USEPA Amendments (July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024), docket R25-9 (consolidated). Here are links to the Board’s (1) [opinion and order](#) and (2) [addendum](#), which includes the text of the proposed amendments. For more information, please contact Joan Beacom at 312-814-6924 or joan.beacom2@illinois.gov.