

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
December 4, 2025

IN THE MATTER OF:)	
)	
NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY)	R25-15
STANDARDS (NAAQS), USEPA)	(Identical-in-Substance Rulemaking - Air)
AMENDMENTS (July 1, 2024, through)	
December 31, 2024))	
)	
NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY)	R26-7
STANDARDS (NAAQS), USEPA)	(Identical-in-Substance Rulemaking - Air)
AMENDMENTS (January 1, 2025, through June)	
30, 2025))	
)	
NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY)	R26-15
STANDARDS (NAAQS), USEPA)	(Identical-in-Substance Rulemaking - Air)
AMENDMENTS (July 1, 2025, through)	
December 31, 2025))	

Reasons for Delay. Extension of Time. Consolidation.

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by B.F. Currie):

The above rulemakings require amendments to the Illinois ambient air quality standards that are identical in substance (IIS) to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) adopted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) from July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025. The Board today consolidates three dockets, R25-15, R26-7 and R26-15, to expedite consideration and extends the due date for final Board action to December 23, 2026.

Section 10(H) of the Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5/10(H) (2024)) requires the Board to adopt regulations that are identical in substance to USEPA's NAAQS. Section 7.2(b) of the Act requires the Board to complete action on amendments within one year of when USEPA adopted its rules. Section 7.2(b) further provides that the Board can extend the time to complete amendments upon a finding that the one-year period is insufficient to complete the rulemaking and specifically state the reasons for the extension. The Board must publish a notice of extension in the *Illinois Register*. 415 ILCS 5/22.4(b).

SUMMARY OF USEPA ACTIONS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

The Board reserved dockets R25-15, R26-7, and R26-15 to accommodate USEPA amendments to NAAQS. From July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025, USEPA took three NAAQS-related actions amending rules that have counterparts in the Illinois regulations:

December 27, 2024 (89 Fed. Reg. 105692)

USEPA revised the existing secondary sulfur dioxide (SO₂) standard to an annual average, averaged over three consecutive years, with a level of 10 parts per billion (ppb). Additionally, USEPA finalized revisions to data handling for secondary SO₂. The Board's rules incorporate the secondary SO₂ standard and revised data handling requirements for secondary SO₂ by reference.

April 7, 2025 (90 Fed. Reg. 15001)

USEPA designated two new Federal Equivalent Methods (FEMs) on April 7, 2025, one for measuring concentrations of PM_{2.5} and the other for measuring concentrations of PM_{10-2.5} in ambient air. On June 15, 2025 USEPA modified its *List of Designated Reference and Equivalent Methods*.

September 5, 2025(90 Fed Reg. 42965)

USEPA designated one new FEM for measuring SO₂, one new reference method for measuring NO₂, one new equivalent method for measuring concentrations of PM_{2.5}, and one new equivalent method for measuring PM_{10-2.5} in ambient air.

CONSOLIDATION OF DOCKETS

The Board finds that consolidating the R25-15, R26-7 and R26-15 dockets is warranted. Consolidation allows for expedient adoption of the 2024 and 2025 USEPA NAAQS amendments. The quickest and most efficient way to complete all amendments is through a single rulemaking. Separate consideration of the three dockets would require more time and increased commitment of Board resources. For this reason, the Board consolidates dockets R25-15, R26-7, and R26-15.

EXTENSION OF DUE DATE AND REASONS FOR DELAY

The Board finds it necessary to set forth the reasons for delay and extends the due date for final Board adoption of these amendments.

Under Section 7.2(b) of the Act (415 ILCS 5/7.2(b) (2024)), the Board must complete this rulemaking within one year after the corresponding federal action. Based on the date USEPA updated secondary air quality standards and designated multiple new methods the Board's deadline to adopt final rules in this consolidated docket is December 27, 2025.

The Board finds that more time is needed to complete this rulemaking. The Board now anticipates adopting these proposed amendments no later than December 23 2026. Therefore, the Board extends the deadline until that date.

There Board plans to complete the amendments in consolidated docket R25-15 on the following schedule:

Due date:	December 23 2026
Proposal adopted date:	January 8, 2026
Publication submission deadline:	January 9, 2026
Expected <i>Illinois Register</i> publication date:	January 23, 2026
Expected Public Notice publication dates:	January 14 2026
End of 45-day public comment period:	March 9, 2026
Public Hearing:	March 5, 2026
Adoption date:	March 19, 2026
Possible filing and effective date:	March 20, 2026
Possible <i>Illinois Register</i> publication date:	April 3, 2026

ORDER

The Board directs the Clerk to submit a notice of this order for publication in the *Illinois Register*.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on December 4, 2025, by a vote of 5-0.



Don A. Brown, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board

