

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

January 8, 2026

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

Proposed Rule. Proposal for Public Comment.

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

The above consolidated 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.

This is an identical-in-substance (IIS) rulemaking under Sections 7.2 and 10(H) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act (Act) (415 ILCS 5/7.2 and 10(H) (2024)). Section 10(H) requires the Board to adopt standards that are identical in substance to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) adopted by USEPA under section 109 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) (42 U.S.C. § 7409 (2023)).

Section 10(H) of the Act and Section 1-5(c)(1) of the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) (5 ILCS 100/5-1-5(c)(1) (2024)) further provide that Title VII of the Act (415 ILCS 5/Tit. VII (2024)) and Section 5-35 of the APA (5 ILCS 100/5-35 (2024)) do not apply to IIS rulemaking. Accordingly, the Board does not adopt a “First Notice” proposal and then a “Second Notice” proposal for review by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). However, Section 7.2 of the Act requires the Board to consider comments from USEPA, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency), the Attorney General, and the public before adopting IIS rules.

**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 (SO<sub>2</sub>) 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 SO<sub>2</sub>. The Board's rules incorporate the secondary SO<sub>2</sub> standard and revised data handling requirements for secondary SO<sub>2</sub> 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<sub>2.5</sub> and the other for measuring concentrations of PM<sub>10-2.5</sub> in ambient air. On December 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 SO<sub>2</sub>, one new reference method for measuring NO<sub>2</sub>, one new equivalent method for measuring concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and one new equivalent method for measuring PM<sub>10-2.5</sub> in ambient air.

The Board today revises the Illinois ambient air quality standards based on the above USEPA actions. The Board updates incorporations by reference to the Code of Federal Regulations in the Illinois rules.

The Board submits the proposed amendments for publication in the *Illinois Register* and receives public comments for at least 45 days after publication. The Board will also hold a public hearing on March 5, 2026. The Board expects to adopt final rules no later than March 19, 2026.

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

Due date:	December 23, 2026
Board Order proposing amendments:	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 *Illinois Register* 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 opinion and order on January 8, 2026, by a vote of 4-0.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don A. Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Don A. Brown, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board