

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

January 8, 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 30, 2024)	)	
	)	
NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY	)	R26-7
STANDARDS (NAAQS), USEPA	)	(Identical-in-Substance Rulemaking - Air)
AMENDMENTS (January 1, 2025, through	)	(consolidated)
June 1, 2025)	)	
	)	
NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY	)	R26-15
STANDARDS (NAAQS), USEPA	)	(Identical-in-Substance Rulemaking - Air)
AMENDMENTS (July 1 2024, through	)	(consolidated)
December 31, 2025)	)	

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

DATE, TIME, AND LOCATIONS:

HEARING: March 5 at 11:10 a.m.

BY VIDEOCONFERENCE BETWEEN

555 W Monroe  
Chicago, IL  
Illinois Room, first floor

and

2520 West Iles Avenue  
Springfield, IL  
Conf. Room 1.508

ATTENDING BOARD MEMBER:

Barbara Flynn Currie

HEARING OFFICER:

Joan Beacom

## **HEARING OFFICER ORDER**

The following briefly describes the subjects and issues involved in this rulemaking. A comprehensive description is contained in the Board's opinion and order of January 8, 2026, proposing amendments in consolidated docket R25-15 for public comment, which opinion and order is available from the address below. As explained in the opinion, the Board will receive public comment on the proposed amendment for 45 days from the date of publication in the *Illinois Register*.

The consolidated docket R25-15 relates to the Illinois ambient air quality requirements in 35 Ill. Adm. Code 243 of the Illinois air pollution control rules. The Board proposes to update the Illinois ambient air quality requirements to correspond with amendments to the federal National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQSs) that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) adopted from July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2025.

The Federal NAAQS are codified at 40 C.F.R. 50. During this period, USEPA amended implementation of its NAAQSs as follows:

### **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 sulfur dioxide 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 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 equivalent method for measuring SO<sub>2</sub>, one new reference method for measuring nitrogen dioxide (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 accepts written public comments on the amendments proposed in R25-15 for a period of 45 days after the date of publication in the *Illinois Register* before proceeding to adoption. Comments should reference consolidated docket R25-15 and be addressed to:

Joan Beacom, Hearing Officer  
 Pollution Control Board  
 60 East Van Buren Street, Suite 630  
 Chicago, Illinois 60605  
 312-814-6924  
[joan.beacom2@illinois.gov](mailto:joan.beacom2@illinois.gov)

The Board will conduct one public hearing on the proposed amendments as they will ultimately result in submission to the USEPA of an amendment to the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Section 110(a)(2) of the Federal Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. §7410(a)(2)) requires reasonable notice and hearing before a state undertakes an amendment to the SIP. The public hearing will be in-person in Chicago and by videoconference in Springfield at the time and location described above.

Request copies of the Board's opinion and order at 312-814-3620 or download a copy from the Board's Website at <http://www.pcb.illinois.gov>.

If adopted by the Board, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will submit the proposed amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code Parts 243 to USEPA for review and approval as a revision to Illinois' SIP. This notice is intended to satisfy the requirements of Clean Air Act Section 110(1), 42 U.S.C. § 7410(1) (public notice for SIP revisions).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/Joan Beacom/

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