

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
April 2, 2026

IN THE MATTER OF:)
)
NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY) R25-15
STANDARDS (NAAQS), USEPA) (Identical-in-Substance Rulemaking - Air)
AMENDMENTS (July 1, 2024, 2024, through)
December 30, 30, 202))
)
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))

Adopted Rule. Final Order.

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

The Board today adopts amendments to the Illinois ambient air quality standards, responding to United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) actions 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 (2024)).

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.

The Board today revises the Illinois ambient air quality standards based on three USEPA actions between July 1, 2024 and December 31, 2025. The first action modified the NAAQS standard for secondary sulfur dioxide (SO₂). The next two actions updated multiple federal

equivalent methods (FEMs) and one reference method, all of which the Board incorporates by reference in the Illinois rules.

The Board adopted a proposal for public comment on January 8, 2026. A Notice of Proposed Amendments appeared in the *Illinois Register* on January 30, 2026 at 50 Ill. Reg. 1356. The 45-day public comment period ended March 16, 2026.

Notice of the public hearing was published in the following newspapers in various geographical locations throughout the State: the *Chicago Sun Times* on January 10, 2026; the *Belleville News Democrat* on January 14, 2026; the *Rockford Register Star* on January 14, 2026; the *State Journal Register* on January 12, 2026; the *Morning Sentinel* on January 17, 2026; the *Metropolis Planet* on January 15, 2026; the *Peoria Journal Star* on January 11, 2026, the *News-Gazette* on January 13, 2026; the *Galena Gazette* on January 14, 2026; the *Moline Dispatch* on January 14, 2026 and the *News Tribune* on January 10, 2026. The Board held a public hearing on the proposed amendments on March 5, 2026. No public comments were made during the hearing.

SUMMARY OF USEPA ACTIONS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

Federal Actions Implemented

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

On December 27, 2024 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. USEPA set the stronger standard due to human health effects associated with long and short-term exposures to SO₂ in ambient air.

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.

September 5, 2025(90 Fed Reg. 42965)

USEPA designated two new equivalent methods and one reference method on September 5, 2025. The designations include one new FEM for measuring SO₂, one new reference method for measuring NO₂, one new FEM for measuring concentrations of PM_{2.5}, and one new FEM for measuring PM_{10-2.5} in ambient air.

On December 15, 2025, USEPA modified its *List of Designated Reference and Equivalent Method* (List). The Board's rules incorporate the December 15, 2025 version of the

List by reference. Updating the incorporation by reference to the December 15, 2025 List incorporates the new FEMs designated on April 7 and September 5, 2025.

Requests for Comments

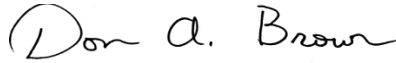
The Board requested public comments on the amendments and incorporation by reference in the proposed order on January 8, 2026. The Board did not receive any comments during the 45-day comment period on the proposed amendments.

ORDER

The Board directs the Clerk to file the adopted amendments with the Office of the Secretary of State and provide notice in the *Illinois Register* of the appended adopted amendments to the Illinois ambient air quality regulations at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 243.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on April 2, 2026, by a vote of 5-0.



Don A. Brown, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board