

Board Proceeds to Second Notice with Proposed Aerospace VOM Amendments

On May 7, 2026, the Board issued an opinion and order proposing second-notice amendments to update its Part 219 air pollution rules (35 Ill. Adm. Code 219). The proposed amendments concern volatile organic material (VOM) emissions from aerospace facilities in the Metro East counties of Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair. The Joint Committee on Administrative Rules has placed these Part 219 amendments on the agenda for its June 16, 2026 meeting.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) initiated this rulemaking when it filed a proposal to amend Part 219. The Board proceeded to first notice without commenting on the substantive merits of IEPA's proposal. After holding two public hearings and receiving public comment, the Board proceeded to second notice.

Under the federal Clean Air Act, states must submit "reasonably available control technology" (RACT) standards for VOM emissions at aerospace manufacturing and rework operations in ozone nonattainment areas classified as moderate and above. In 2021, IEPA proposed, and the Board adopted, these RACT standards as amendments to Part 219 for aerospace facilities in the Metro East area. See Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 219, Organic Material Emission Standards for the Metro East Area, and 35 Ill. Adm. Code 211, Definitions and General Provisions, docket R21-18 (Mar. 4, 2021). However, the 2021 rulemaking inadvertently omitted a limited exemption for low volumes of primers, topcoats, and chemical milling maskants at aerospace facilities. The current rulemaking therefore proposes to add this low-volume exemption, which will make Part 219 more consistent with federal guidelines for VOM emissions from aerospace coating operations. The proposed rule will apply to aerospace manufacturing and rework operations that include the manufacture or rework of commercial, civil, or military aerospace vehicles or components at sources in the Metro East area with a potential to emit at least 25 tons per year of VOM.

The rulemaking is captioned Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 219, Organic Material Emissions Standards for the Metro East Area, docket R25-25. Here is a link to the Board's [second-notice opinion and order](#), which contains the text of the proposed amendments. For more information, please contact Anupama Paruchuri at 217-786-0280 or anupama.paruchuri2@illinois.gov.