

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

May 11, 2004

GOVERNOR
Rod R. Blagojevich

CHAIRMAN
J. Philip Novak

Jack Lavin, Director
Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
620 East Adams Street, S-6
Springfield, Illinois 62704

Re: Request for Economic Impact Study for: **Proposed Amendments to Dissolved Oxygen Standard 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.206 (R04-25)**

Dear Director Lavin:

The Pollution Control Board (Board) received a rulemaking proposal on April 19, 2004, filed by the Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies (IAWA). The proposal seeks to amend the Board's general use water quality regulations that establish standards for levels of dissolved oxygen. The Board accepted the proposal for hearing on May 6, 2004. I am writing to request that you determine whether your Department will conduct an economic impact study concerning this proposal.

Since 1998, Section 27 (b) of the Environmental Protection Act has required the Board to:

1) "request that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (formerly the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs) conduct a study of the economic impact of the proposed rules. The Department may within 30 to 45 days of such request produce a study of the economic impact of the proposed rules. At a minimum, the economic impact study shall address a) economic, environmental, and public health benefits that may be achieved through compliance with the proposed rules, b) the effects of the proposed rules on employment levels, commercial productivity, the economic growth of small businesses with 100 or less employees, and the State's overall economy, and c) the cost per unit of pollution reduced and the variability of company revenues expected to be used to implement the proposed rules; and

(2) conduct at least one public hearing on the economic impact of those rules. At least 20 days before the hearing, the Board shall notify the public of the hearing and make the economic impact study, or the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's explanation for not producing an economic impact study, available to the public. Such public hearing may be held simultaneously or as a part of any Board hearing considering such new rules." 415 ILCS 5/27(b) (2002).

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE

1021 North Grand Ave. East
P.O. Box 19274
Springfield, IL
62794-9274
217-524-8500
FAX 217-524-8508

CHICAGO OFFICE

James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph
Suite 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601
312-814-3620
FAX 312-814-3669
TTY 312-814-6032

WEB SITE

www.ipcb.state.il.us



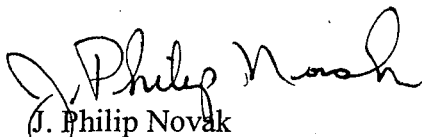
The Board is scheduling hearing dates for this rulemaking proposal. I would greatly appreciate a response from you concerning DCEO's position on whether it will perform the economic impact study as soon as is possible.

The Board appreciates DCEO's recent timely and considered response to similar requests we have made concerning other pending rulemakings. The Board appreciates that fiscal constraints may prevent DCEO from conducting economic studies in every rulemaking. But, as I have pointed out before, a review of Board rulemaking opinions and orders since then would reveal that the Department's decision not to perform economic impact studies has not been questioned at any Board hearing.

If I, or my staff, can provide you with any additional information, please let me know. While the Board can proceed to hold hearings while awaiting your decision, the Environmental Protection Act does not allow the Board to complete its rulemaking process without your Department's input.

Thank you for your early response.

Sincerely,



J. Philip Novak
Chairman, Pollution Control Board

Cc: Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk
Erin Conley, Rules Coordinator