

BOARD ADOPTS AMENDMENTS TO NPDES PERMITS AND PERMITTING PROCEDURES

On May 6, 2004, the Illinois Pollution Control Board adopted amendments to the Board's regulations used by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for issuing permits under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The rulemaking, Proposed Amendments to: Public Participation Rules in 35 Ill. Adm. Code Part 309 NPDES Permits and Permitting Procedures (R03-19), was filed on January 13, 2003 by the Environmental Law and Policy Center of the Midwest, Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club, Prairie Rivers Network, and 225 petitioners.

The amendments are contained in the Board's regulations at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 309 for issuance of NPDES permits by the IEPA. Specifically, the amendments clarify the provisions on public participation in the permitting process. The amendments codify the IEPA's existing practice when reviewing and issuing NPDES permits, require additional information in NPDES permit fact sheets prepared for the public by IEPA, identify when the public comment period can be reopened, require control of pollutants and pollutant parameters that may potentially violate water quality standards, and require reports adequate to determine compliance with monitoring requirements.

The Board held three hearings in this matter. Written public comments, hearing transcripts, and prefiled testimony are posted on the Board's Web site and may be downloaded from the Web free of charge. Hard copies of transcripts, written comments, or any other document filed in this matter may be obtained for \$.75 per page from the Clerk's office at 312-814-3629, or by writing to the Clerk's office.

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