

Board Considers Proposed Amendments to General Use Water Quality Standards for Dissolved Oxygen

The Illinois Pollution Control Board is considering a proposal to amend the Board's rule establishing general use water quality standards for dissolved oxygen (35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.206). On April 19, 2004, the Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies (IAWA) filed a rulemaking proposal entitled Proposed Amendments To Dissolved Oxygen Standard 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.206, which the Board has docketed as R04-25.

Under the existing Board standards adopted in 1972, dissolved oxygen must not be less than 6.0 milligrams per liter (mg/L) during at least 16 hours of any 24 hour period, nor less than 5.0 mg/L at any time. IAWA asserts that these standards are too restrictive. IAWA proposes amending the rule so that during the months of July through February, dissolved oxygen must not be less than a one-day minimum concentration of 3.5 mg/L, and a seven-day mean minimum of 4.0 mg/L, and that during the months of March through June, dissolved oxygen must not be less than a one-day minimum concentration of 5.0 mg/L, and a seven-day mean of 6.0 mg/L. IAWA states that its proposed new standards are based on the United States Environmental Protection Agency's "National Criteria Document ('NCD') for Dissolved Oxygen (1986)" and "published research on natural fluctuations in aquatic systems and physiological tolerances of native aquatic life."

On May 6, 2004, the Board accepted this proposal for hearing. Public hearings will be scheduled in this rulemaking. Written comments should contain the rulemaking title and docket number (R04-25) and should be sent to the Clerk's Office at the following address:

Dorothy Gunn, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph Street
Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

For more information, please contact Richard McGill at (312) 814-6983 or mcgillr@ipcb.state.il.us.