

**The Board Will Hear a Proposal to Adopt Air Pollution Regulations to Control
Volatile Organic Material Emissions from Certain Products in Ozone
Nonattainment Areas**

On August 6, 2009, the Illinois Pollution Control Board accepted for hearing a proposal to adopt air pollution regulations to control emissions of volatile organic material (VOM) for Group II Consumer & Commercial Products in ozone nonattainment areas classified as moderate and above. Group II Consumer & Commercial Products include industrial cleaning solvents, flat wood paneling coatings, flexible packaging printing materials, lithographic printing materials and letter press printing materials. On July 9, 2009, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) filed the proposal, which the Board docketed as In the Matter of: Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) for Volatile Organic Material Emissions from Group II Consumer & Commercial Products: Proposed Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 211, 218, and 219 (R10-08).

The IEPA states that this proposal is intended to satisfy Illinois' obligation under the Clean Air Act to submit a State Implementation Plan (SIP) addressing VOM emissions in areas designated as nonattainment for the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). Specifically the IEPA states that Illinois must revise its SIP to include RACT for sources of VOM emissions covered by a United States Environmental Protection Agency control techniques guideline (CTG), which USEPA finalized in October 2006. USEPA required submission of SIP revisions responding to the CTGs within one year. IEPA states that Illinois is required to submit these SIP revisions before the USEPA can redesignate the Chicago and Metro East nonattainment area as attaining the 1997 ozone NAAQS, regardless of whether the VOM reductions obtained by the SIP revisions are actually necessary to achieve attainment of the NAAQS.

Additionally, the Board denied the IEPA's request for an expedited review because of the Board's limited resources in light of its current and future decision deadlines.

Chicago and St. Louis/Metro East areas in Illinois have been designated as moderate nonattainment areas for the 8-hour ozone standard. VOM is characterized by the IEPA as "a primary precursor to the formation of ground-level ozone."

Public comments must be filed with the Clerk of the Board. Public comments may be filed at the following address:

Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street, Suite 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601

In addition, public comments may be filed electronically through the Clerk's Office On-Line (COOL) through the Board's Web site at www.ipcb.state.il.us. Any questions about electronic filing through COOL should be directed to the Clerk's Office at (312) 814-3629

Opinions and orders of the Board, hearing transcripts, and other documents in rulemaking records are posted on the Board's Web site and may be downloaded from the Web without charge. Hard copies may be obtained for \$.75 per page from the Clerk's office. For more information contact Tim Fox at 312-814-6085 or email at foxt@ipcb.state.il.us.