

Board to Hold Hearings on Proposal to Reduce Volatile Organic Material Emissions

On August 4, 2011, the Illinois Pollution Control Board accepted for hearing a proposal to amend the Board's regulations dealing with volatile organic material (VOM) emissions from various consumer products and aerosol coatings. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), on July 13, 2011, filed the proposal to amend Part 223 of the Board's air pollution regulations. The rulemaking is docketed as In the Matter of: Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code Part 223: Standards and Limitations for Organic Material Emissions for Area Sources (R12-8).

The IEPA states in its proposal that “[o]zone is not emitted directly by most sources.” The IEPA further states that precursors such as VOM, nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide react in the presence of sunlight and high temperatures to form ozone.

The IEPA seeks to amend Part 223 to “include limits in percent VOM by weight for adhesive removers, contact adhesives, non-aerosol antistatic products, electrical cleaners, engine degreasers, fabric refreshers, footwear or leather care products, graffiti removers, hair styling products, shaving gels, and wood cleaners.” The IEPA expects that control of these additional categories will reduce VOM emissions in Illinois by one ton per day. The IEPA argues that “some of these reductions have already taken place due to nationwide compliance by many of the larger manufacturers of these products with the California or the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) rules. The IEPA also proposes a clarification of the existing Architectural and Industrial maintenance rule in order to clarify and simplify compliance.

The Board directs the hearing officer to schedule and proceed to hearing. After conducting hearings on this proposal the Board will determine whether to proceed to first notice.

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 from the Clerk's office upon payment of reproduction fees as prescribed by Section 6 of the Freedom of Information Act [5 ILCS 140/6].

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