

## **Board to Hold Hearings on Proposal to Amend Water Pollution Regulations**

On June 4, 2015, the Board adopted an order accepting for hearing a proposal to amend the Board's water pollution regulations. The rulemaking, Water Pollution: Proposed Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code Part 309 (R15-24), was filed with the Board on June 1, 2015 by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency).

The proposed amendments relate to (1) Part 309, Subpart A, Section 309.104; and (2) Part 309, Subpart B of the water pollution rules. The Agency states that one purpose of the proposed amendments to Section 309.104, concerning renewal of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination (NPDES) permits, is to update the regulations to "model federal regulations at 40 C.F.R. 122.6 and 122.21(d)." The second purpose, according to the Agency, is to give the Agency flexibility to accept NPDES permit renewal applications submitted less than 180 days before the permit is to expire. The proposed amendments to Part 309, Subpart B, would generally clarify, clean up, and streamline the existing rules, but also include limited substantive new proposals such as a provision allowing lifetime operating permits for specified pretreatment works or wastewater sources.

The Board directed the assigned 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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