

Board Adopts Water Quality Standards in the Chicago Area Waterways System and Lower Des Plaines River Subdocket D

On June 18, 2015, the Board adopted a final notice opinion and order for proposed water quality standards for the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River (LDPR) that are necessary to meet the aquatic life uses for those waterways. The proposal is docketed as In the Matter of: Water Quality Standards and Effluent Limitations for the Chicago Area Waterway System and Lower Des Plaines River: Proposed Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 301, 302, 303, and 304, R08-9(D).

The Board adopted water quality standards that are protective of the aquatic life uses designated for CAWS and LDPR. Those standards include a site specific chloride water quality standard for the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (CSSC). As to the remaining segments of the CAWS and LDPR, while the Board adopted a year-round chloride standard of 500 mg/L, the standard will have a three year delayed effective date. In the interim, the Board leaves in place the Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) standard during the winter months of December 1 through April 30 and applies the 500 mg/L chloride standard during the summer months of May 1 through November 30 for CAWS and LDPR, except for the CSSC. The interim TDS standard will sunset three years after the effective date of the rules.

In addition, the Board adopted the temperature standards as proposed at first notice, except the Board delayed the effective date of the temperature standards until three years after the effective date of the rules.

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 of the Freedom of Information Act:

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