

Illinois Pollution Control Board

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GOVERNOR Rod R. Blagojevich

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CHAIRMAN
G. Tanner Girard, Ph.D.

August 6, 2009

Warren Ribley, Director Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity 620 East Adams Street, S-6 Springfield, Illinois 62704 RECEIVED CLERK'S OFFICE

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

Re: Request for Economic Impact Study for: 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)

Dear Director Ribley:

On August 6, 2009, the Board accepted for hearing a proposal in 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, (R09-21). This rulemaking was filed with the Board on July 9, 2009, by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Generally, the Agency proposes to adopt air pollution regulations to control emissions of volatile organic material for Group II Consumer & Commercial Products in ozone nonattainment areas classified as moderate and above. Group II products include industrial cleaning solvents, flat wood paneling coatings, flexible packaging printing materials, lithographic printing materials, and letterpress printing materials. I write to request that your Department conduct an economic impact study concerning this proposal.

Since 1998, Section 27(b) of the Environmental Protection Act has required the Board to:

1) request that the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (formerly the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs) conduct a study of the economic impact of the proposed rules. The Department may within 30 to 45 days of such request produce a study of the economic impact of the proposed rules. At a minimum, the economic impact study shall address a) economic, environmental, and public health benefits that may be achieved through compliance with the proposed rules, b) the effects of the proposed rules on employment levels, commercial productivity, the economic growth of small businesses with 100 or less employees, and the State's overall economy, and c) the cost per unit of pollution reduced and the variability of company revenues expected to be used to implement the proposed rules; and

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(2) conduct at least one public hearing on the economic impact of those rules. At least 20 days before the hearing, the Board shall notify the public of the hearing and make the economic impact study, or the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's explanation for not producing an economic impact study, available to the public. Such public hearing may be held simultaneously or as a part of any Board hearing considering such new rules. 415 ILCS 5/27(b) (2008).

The Board is in the process of scheduling a hearing in this rulemaking. Although there is no decision deadline in this rulemaking, the Board intends to proceed promptly with this rulemaking, and asks that you respond to this request as soon as you conveniently can. If I, or my staff, can provide you with any additional information, please let me know.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response.

Sincerely,

G. Tanner Girard

Acting Chairman

Pollution Control Board

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cc: John T. Therriault, Assistant Clerk of the Board