

PROPOSAL TO AMEND NPDES PERMITS AND PERMITTING PROCEDURES

On September 4, 2003, the Illinois Pollution Control Board sent to first notice a rulemaking proposal to amend the Board's regulations used by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for issuing permits under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The rulemaking, Proposed Amendments to: Public Participation Rules in 35 Ill. Adm. Code Part 309 NPDES Permits and Permitting Procedures (R03-19), was filed on January 13, 2003 by the Environmental Law and Policy Center of the Midwest, Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club, Prairie Rivers Network, and 225 petitioners.

The proposal will clarify the Board's regulations at 35 Ill. Adm. Code for issuance of NPDES permits by the IEPA, including the provisions on public participation. Specifically, the proposal codifies the IEPA's existing practice when reviewing and issuing NPDES permits, requires additional information in NPDES permit fact sheets prepared for the public by IEPA, identifies when the public comment period can be reopened, requires control of pollutants and pollutant parameters that may potentially violate water quality standards, and requires reports adequate to determine compliance with monitoring requirements.

The Board will accept public comments on this proposal for 45 days after the proposal is published in the *Illinois Register*. Written comments should contain the rulemaking title and docket number (R03-19). Written comments should be sent to the Clerk's office at the following address:

Dorothy Gunn, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph Street
Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

The Board held two hearing in this matter. Written public comments, hearing transcripts, and prefiled testimony in this matter are posted on the Board's Web site and may be downloaded from the Web free of charge. Hard copies of transcripts, written comments, or any other document filed in this matter may be obtained for \$.75 per page from the Clerk's office at 312-814-3629, or by writing to the Clerk's office.

For more information contact Marie Tipsord at (312) 814-4925 or email at tipsordm@ipcb.state.il.us.