

Illinois Pollution Control Board Adopts Two Rules Dealing with MTBE

On January 24, 2002, the Illinois Pollution Control Board adopted two rules dealing with methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE). MTBE is a water-soluble fuel additive. Since 1994, 26 community water supplies have found evidence of MTBE contamination in their finished drinking water.

The first rulemaking, In the Matter of: Proposed Amendments to Tiered Approach to Corrective Action Objectives (TACO) (MTBE): 35 Ill. Adm. Code 742, (R00-19(C)) amends the TACO rules by adding MTBE. The TACO rules are used to develop remediation objectives based on risks to human health and the environment that are posed by the environmental conditions at sites undergoing cleanup pursuant to the Site Remediation Program, the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Program, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Part B permits and closures. Specifically, this rule adds MTBE to the list of contaminants that must be tested for during remediation.

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The second rulemaking, In the Matter of: Proposed MTBE Groundwater Quality Standards Amendments: 35 Ill. Adm. Code 620, (R01-14), establishes groundwater standards for MTBE. Specifically, the rulemaking establishes monitoring requirements if MTBE is detected at concentrations equal to or above 20 parts per billion. MTBE concentrations may not exceed 70 parts per billion in groundwater that can be used for drinking, agricultural, industrial, recreational, or other beneficial uses. In addition, this rulemaking clarifies requirements for drinking water supply wells that can be used to collect groundwater samples.

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