

## **Board Proposes First-Notice Amendments to Public Water Supply Permitting Rules**

On June 19, 2003, after two public hearings and a public comment period, the Illinois Pollution Control Board proposed first-notice amendments to its permitting rules for public water supplies (PWS). *See* Radionuclide Restricted Status, Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 602.105, 602.106, 602.108, and 602.115, R03-21 (June 19, 2003). The amendments would extend an existing exemption, allowing the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to continue issuing construction and operating permits to qualifying PWS though the water supplies do not comply with the radionuclide standards for drinking water. However, a PWS not meeting these drinking water standards would qualify for the exemption *only if* the water supply is bound to a specific schedule for meeting the radionuclide standards under an enforceable court order or IEPA Compliance Commitment Agreement. The proposed exemption would “sunset” (*i.e.*, no longer be effective) on December 8, 2009. The Board expects to adopt final rules before December 8, 2003, the date on which the current exemption expires.

Under the Board’s permit ban or “restricted status” rule, a PWS generally cannot receive a permit if it is out of compliance with a drinking water standard. The proposed exemption to this rule, like the current exemption, would *not* exempt any PWS from meeting the radionuclide drinking water standards, but rather would allow qualifying PWS to receive permits to modify and operate their systems. Illinois’ drinking water standards for radionuclides, which must be and are the same as the federal standards, are 5 pico curies per liter (pCi/L) for combined radium (radium-226 and radium-228), 15 pCi/L for gross alpha particle activity, and 30 micrograms per liter (µg/L) for uranium. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 611.330. Compliance with these standards is required effective December 8, 2003.

The amendments proposed for first notice, which also include new certification requirements for PWS construction permit applications, will be published in the *Illinois Register*. Publication will begin an additional public comment period, which will last at least 45 days. Anyone may file public comments on the first-notice amendments. The comment should contain the rulemaking caption and docket number (above) and be sent to:

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

For more information, please contact Hearing Officer Richard McGill at (312) 814-6983 or by e-mail at [mcgillr@ipcb.state.il.us](mailto:mcgillr@ipcb.state.il.us).