

Board Is Considering Amendments to Radium Water Quality Standards

On January 22, 2004, the Illinois Pollution Control Board accepted a proposal for hearing which would amend the water quality standard for radium from 1 pico curie per liter (pCi/L) to 5pCi/L and change the standard's applicability from general use to apply specifically to public and food processing water supplies. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) filed the proposed rulemaking entitled Revisions To Radium Water Quality Standards: Proposed New 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.307 and Amendments To 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.207 and 302.525 on January 13, 2004. Radium is a naturally occurring radioactive metal that is commonly found in Illinois groundwater.

The new Section 302.307 proposed by the IEPA would establish a public and food processing water supply standard for radium 226 and 228 combined. The IEPA's proposed changes to Sections 302.207 and 302.525 would eliminate the existing general use and Lake Michigan water quality standards for radium 226, but retain existing radioactivity standards for gross beta particle activity and strontium 90. The IEPA states that the proposed amendments correspond to the United State's Protection Agency' Maximum Contaminant Level for finished drinking water which became effective December 8, 2003.

Two public hearings will be scheduled in this matter. Written comments should contain the rulemaking title and docket number (R04-21) and 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

For more information contact Amy Antonioli at (312) 814-3665 or email at antonioa@ipcb.state.il.us