

Board Sends Noise Rulemaking To Second Notice

On January 19, 2006, the Illinois Pollution Control Board adopted for second notice regulations concerning measurement of and standards for noise emissions in Illinois. The rulemaking entitled Proposed New And Updated Rules For Measurement and Numerical Sound Emissions Standards Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 901 and 910, (R03-9) was originally proposed in February 2003.

The proposal creates new and updates existing regulations governing noise to reflect present scientific standards for many of the sound measurement definitions and techniques contained in the Board's rules. Further, this rulemaking revises outdated numerical sound emission standards for property line noise sources found at 35 Ill. Adm. Code Parts 901, and adds a new Part 910 to the Board's regulations. The new Part incorporates noise measurement techniques currently contained only in Illinois Environmental Protection Agency rules at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 951. The Board defers regulation of blasting operations at aggregate and surface coal mines to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, which has an extensive regulatory scheme in place.

This rulemaking is closely associated with the rules adopted in September 2003 in Noise Rule Update Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 900 and 903, (R03-8) that define acoustical terms, pollution sources and sound measurement procedures. The rules adopted in R03-8 are based on updated science, including pertinent American National Standards Institute updates from 1998-2001, and other current scientific publications.

During the 45-day second-notice period, the Board will accept comments only from the Joint Committee on Administrative Review.

The Board held four public hearings on this proposed rulemaking. Opinions and orders of the Board, hearing transcripts, and other documents in this rulemaking record are posted on the Board's Web site and may be downloaded from the Web without charge. Hard copies may be obtained for \$.75 per page from the Clerk's office at 312-814-3629, or by writing to the Clerk's office.

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