

The Illinois Pollution Control Board Has New Leadership

On January 1, 2003, Thomas E. Johnson was appointed Chairman of the Illinois Pollution Control Board. Johnson was designated Chairman when Claire A. Manning took early retirement. While leadership at the Board has changed, the Board will continue to serve the public with professionalism and efficiency. The Board will continue to timely and faithfully fulfill its statutory mission during this transition period. Chairman Johnson will work to enhance the Board's high level of professionalism and public service.

The Board wishes Manning well in her future endeavors in private practice. The enthusiasm and dedication Manning brought to the Board will be missed. During her tenure, the Board established regulations—specifically on leaking underground storage tanks, the Tiered Approach to Corrective Action Objectives (TACO), and the Site Remediation program, which are innovative practical cleanup standards that take exposure risk and property use into account. In 1997, the Board adopted the first pollution control standards for large concentrated livestock operations. Recently the Board adopted water “antidegradation” regulations, with provisions for designating outstanding resource waters. Over the past five years, the Board adopted air regulations such as the nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions trading rules and the Emissions Reduction Market System (ERMS). Manning also did her utmost to make it easier to appear before the Board by updating the procedural rules to streamline the Board's processes.

Chairman Johnson has been a member of the Board since July 2001. Johnson has spent more than a decade in private legal practice after graduating from Northern Illinois University School of Law in 1989 and holds a BS in Finance from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Johnson has also served the public in many capacities including: Champaign County Board Member, Special Assistant Attorney General, Special Prosecutor for the Secretary of State, and Central Office Director to the Illinois Department of Transportation. He is a lifelong resident of Champaign County and lives in Urbana with his wife and two children.