

Board Proposes “Identical-in-Substance” Amendments to VOM Definition

On May 21, 2020, for public comment and hearing, the Board proposed rule amendments that keep Illinois’ definition of “volatile organic material” (VOM) “identical in substance” to the federal definition of “volatile organic compound” (VOC). The proposal reflects action taken by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on November 28, 2018, to exclude a new hydrofluoroolefin from the VOC definition. The Board therefore proposed expanding its exclusion from ozone regulation “due to negligible photochemical reactivity.” 415 ILCS 5/9.1(e) (2018). The Board also included proposed corrections to chemical names in the list of excluded compounds.

The Board will continue accepting public comments on the proposed rule amendments for 45 days after their publication in the *Illinois Register*. The Board will also hold a public hearing on July 16, 2020. The hearing will take place by videoconference between the Board’s Springfield and Chicago hearing rooms; anyone may participate in person at either location. In addition, due to COVID-19 and related Executive Orders in effect at the time of hearing notice, the Board added ways to participate in the hearing—specifically, anyone may participate remotely by WebEx computer (audio/video) or WebEx telephone (audio only).

The Board’s rulemaking is captioned Definition of VOM Update, USEPA Regulations (July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018), docket R19-15 (May 21, 2020). Here are links to (1) the Board’s [opinion and order](#), which includes the proposed rule amendments, as well as details on how to participate in the hearing, and (2) the Board’s [addendum](#), which provides tables of information concerning the rulemaking. For more information, please contact Hearing Officer Michael McCambridge at 312-814-6924 or michael.mccambridge@illinois.gov.