

## **Board Sends EtO Air Monitoring Rules to Second Notice**

On November 19, 2020, the Board issued a second-notice opinion and order proposing a new Part 249 of its air pollution rules. As proposed, Part 249 requires the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to monitor ambient air across Illinois for background levels of ethylene oxide (EtO). EtO is a flammable gas that has many uses, including sterilizing medical equipment. Under the proposed rules, IEPA must monitor for EtO in or around the locations of Northbrook, Schiller Park, Nilwood, Alton, and Bondville—where IEPA has monitoring stations. IEPA must monitor for six consecutive calendar months and place the air monitoring results on its website.

On December 17, 2019, IEPA initiated this rulemaking by submitting a proposal to the Board. IEPA's monitoring for ambient EtO levels and the proposed rules for carrying out that monitoring are required by new Section 9.16(n) of the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5/9.16(n), added by P.A. 101-22 (eff. June 21, 2019)). In its November 19, 2020 opinion and order, the Board addressed the issues raised at hearing and in public comment, after which the Board submitted its proposed rules to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules for second-notice review.

This rulemaking is captioned Proposed New 35 Ill. Adm. Code 249, Ethylene Oxide Ambient Air Monitoring, docket R20-18. Here is a link to the Board's [second-notice opinion and order](#), which includes the text of the proposed rules. For more information, please contact Mark Kaminski at 312-814-3886 or [mark.kaminski@illinois.gov](mailto:mark.kaminski@illinois.gov).