

## **Board Proposes “Identical-in-Substance” Amendments to Ambient Air Quality Standards**

On March 7, 2024, the Board proposed amendments to keep Illinois’ ambient air quality standards “identical in substance” to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The amendments reflect two actions taken by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) during the second half of 2023. First, USEPA updated the current ozone absorption cross-section to the recommended consensus-based cross-section value. Second, USEPA updated its *List of Designated Reference and Equivalent Method*. This update modified existing method designations and designated a new Federal Equivalent Method (FEM) for measuring concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM<sup>10</sup>) in ambient air.

Publication of the Board’s proposed amendments in the *Illinois Register* will start a period of at least 45 days during which anyone may file a public comment with the Board. The Board will also hold a public hearing on April 18, 2024. In May of this year, the Board expects to adopt final amendments.

The Board’s rulemaking is captioned National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) Update, USEPA Amendments (July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023), docket R24-15. Here are links to (1) the Board’s [opinion and order](#); and (2) the Board’s [addendum](#) to the opinion and order, which contains the text of the proposed amendments. For more information, please contact Vanessa Horton at 312-814-5053 or [vanessa.horton@illinois.gov](mailto:vanessa.horton@illinois.gov).