

Board Adopts “Identical-in-Substance” Amendments to Drinking Water Rules

On January 22, 2026, the Board adopted amendments to keep Illinois’ primary drinking water standards (35 Ill. Adm. Code 611) “identical in substance” to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs). The amendments reflect actions taken under the NPDWRs by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) during 2024. USEPA’s actions included adding new regulations for six per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), updating the comprehensive Lead and Copper Rule, and approving 93 alternative testing methods (ATMs) for analyzing contaminants in drinking water.

The Board issued an opinion and order on October 2, 2025, proposing amendments for public comment. In turn, the proposed amendments were published in the *Illinois Register* (49 Ill. Reg. 13118) (Oct. 24, 2025)). The Board received public comments from USEPA, the Illinois Attorney General’s Office, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Law & Policy Center, the City of Rockford, and the City of Springfield, Office of Public Utilities, d/b/a City Water, Light and Power.

The Board’s rulemaking is captioned SDWA Update, USEPA Amendments (January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024), docket R25-1 and SDWA Update, USEPA Amendments (July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024), docket R25-9 (consolidated). Here are links to the Board’s (1) [final opinion and order](#) and (2) [final addendum](#), which includes the text of the adopted amendments. For more information, please contact Joan Beacom at 312-814-6924 or joan.beacom2@illinois.gov.