ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
November 5, 2026

UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION,	)	
Petitioner,	)	
v.	)	PCB 27-03 (Permit Appeal – Water, NPDES)
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY,	)	
Respondent.	)	

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by A. Tin):

On September 3, 2026, at the parties' request, the Board extended until October 27, 2026, the time period for United States Steel Corporation (U.S. Steel) to appeal a June 24, 2026 determination of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency or IEPA). The determination concerns U.S. Steel's Granite City Works facility at 20th and State Street, Granite City, Madison County. On October 27, 2026, U.S. Steel timely filed a petition asking the Board to review the Agency's determination. *See* 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(1) (2024); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.300(b), 105.206, 105.208. For the reasons below, the Board accepts the petition for review.

Under the Environmental Protection Act (415 ILCS 5 (2024)), the Agency is the permitting authority, responsible for administering Illinois' regulatory programs to protect the environment. If the Agency denies a permit or grants one with conditions, the permit applicant may appeal the Agency's decision to the Board. *See* 415 ILCS 5/4, 5, 40(a)(1) (2024); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.Subpart D. In this case, the Agency issued a final National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit for U.S. Steel's Granite City Works facility. U.S. Steel appeals on the grounds that the Agency improperly imposed requirements under Section 316(b) of the Clean Water Act; imposed PFAS monitoring and minimization requirements without adequately addressing U.S. Steel's requested revisions; and failed to adequately explain or support the challenged permit conditions or respond to U.S. Steel's significant comments. U.S. Steel's petition meets the content requirements of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.210.

The Board accepts the petition for hearing. U.S. Steel has the burden of proof. 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(1) (2024); *see also* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.112(a). Hearings will be based exclusively on the record before the Agency at the time the Agency issued its permit decision. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.214(a). Accordingly, though the Board hearing affords a permit applicant the opportunity to challenge the Agency's reasons for denying or conditionally granting the permit, information developed after the Agency's decision typically is not admitted at hearing or considered by the Board. *See* Alton Packaging Corp. v. PCB, 162 Ill. App. 3d 731, 738, 516 N.E.2d 275, 280 (5th Dist. 1987); Community Landfill Co. & City of Morris v. IEPA, PCB 01-

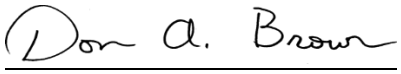
170 (Dec. 6, 2001), *aff'd sub nom.* Community Landfill Co. & City of Morris v. PCB & IEPA, 331 Ill. App. 3d 1056, 772 N.E.2d 231 (3rd Dist. 2002).

Hearings will be scheduled and completed in a timely manner, consistent with the decision deadline (*see* 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(2) (2024)), which only U.S. Steel may extend by waiver (*see* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.308). If the Board fails to take final action by the decision deadline, U.S. Steel "shall be entitled to an Appellate Court order pursuant to subsection (d) of Section 41 of this Act 415 ILCS 5/41(d) (2024)." 415 ILCS 5/40(a)(3) (2024). Currently, the decision deadline is February 24, 2027, which is the 120th day after the Board received the petition. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.114. The Board meeting immediately before the decision deadline is scheduled for February 18, 2027.

Unless the Board or the hearing officer orders otherwise, the Agency must file the entire record of its determination by November 30, 2026, which is 30 days after the Board received U.S. Steel's petition. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.116(a), 105.212(a). If the Agency wishes to seek additional time to file the record, it must file a request for extension before the date on which the record is due to be filed. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 105.116(a). The record must comply with the Board's requirements for content, organization, and certification. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.1030(g), 105.116(b), 105.212(b). In addition, the Agency must file the record electronically instead of in paper. Specifically, the record must be filed through the Clerk's Office On-Line (COOL) or on compact disk or other portable electronic data storage device and, to the extent technically feasible, in text-searchable Adobe PDF. *See* 35 Ill. Adm. Code 101.302(h)(2)(A), 105.116(a).[1]

IT IS SO ORDERED.

I, Don A. Brown, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the Board adopted the above order on November 5, 2026, by a vote of 5-0.



Don A. Brown, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board

[1] Any questions about filing the record in an electronic format should be directed to the Clerk's Office at (312) 814-3620 or (312) 814-3461.