

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

On October 19, 2023, for public comment and hearing, the Board proposed an amendment to 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 February 8, 2023. Specifically, USEPA excluded HFO–1336mzz(E) from its VOC definition (40 C.F.R. § 51.100(s)) after determining that the compound makes a negligible contribution to the formation of tropospheric ozone, commonly known as “smog.” The Board also made a few non-substantive changes to its VOM definition (35 Ill. Adm. Code 211.7150).

The Board will continue accepting public comments on the proposed amendments until December 18, 2023, which is the 45th day after the November 3, 2023 publication of the proposal in the *Illinois Register*. The Board will also hold a public hearing on December 7, 2023. The hearing will take place by videoconference between Springfield and Chicago; anyone may participate in person at either location.

The Board’s rulemaking is captioned Definitions of VOM, USEPA Amendments (January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023), docket R24-8. Here are links to the Board’s [opinion and order](#), as well as the Board’s [addendum](#), which includes the proposed amendments. For more information, please contact Hearing Officer Vanessa Horton at 312-814-5053 or vanessa.horton@illinois.gov.