

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
January 22, 2004

IN THE MATTER OF: )  
)  
REVISIONS TO RADIUM WATER QUALITY ) R04-21  
STANDARDS: PROPOSED NEW 35 ILL. ADM. ) Rulemaking - Water  
CODE 302.307 and AMENDMENTS TO )  
35 ILL. ADM. CODE 302.207 and 302.525 )

ORDER OF THE BOARD (by N.J. Melas):

On January 13, 2004, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) filed a proposal to amend Part 302 of the Board's water quality standards. The Agency proposes to amend the water quality standard for radium from 1 picocurie per liter (pCi/L) to 5pCi/L and change the standard's applicability from general use to apply specifically to public and food processing water supplies.

In the proposal, the Agency states that radium is a naturally occurring radioactive metal that exists in several isotopes, and is commonly found in Illinois groundwater. According to the Agency, the proposed changes to Sections 302.207 and 302.525 eliminate the existing general use and Lake Michigan (respectively) water quality standards for radium 226, yet retain the existing radioactivity standards for gross beta particle activity and strontium 90. Statement at 7-8.<sup>1</sup> The proposed new Section 302.307 establishes a public and food processing water supply standard for radium 226 and 228 combined. *Id.* at 7. The Agency states that these proposed amendments correspond to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Maximum Contaminant Level for finished drinking water. *Id.* at 8. This final drinking water standard became effective December 8, 2003. National Primary Drinking Water Regulations; Radionuclide; Final Rule. 65 Fed. Reg. 76707 (Dec. 7, 2000).

The Agency contends this proposal will primarily benefit publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) and public drinking water supplies. Statement at 15. According to the Agency, POTWs that are attached to public drinking water supplies using high radium groundwater as the potable raw water source will benefit because this Agency proposal increases the water quality standard for radium 226 and 228 combined from 1pCi/L to 5pCi/L. *Id.*

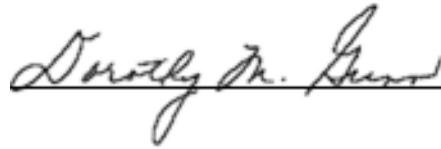
The Board finds that the Agency's rulemaking satisfies the content requirements of Section 102.202 of the Board's procedural rules. 35 Ill. Adm. Code 102.202. The Board accepts this proposal for hearing and directs the assigned hearing officer to proceed expeditiously under the rulemaking provisions of the Act and Board procedural rules. 415 ILCS 5/27, 28 (2002); 35 Ill. Adm. Code 102.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

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<sup>1</sup> The Agency's Statement of Reasons included in the rulemaking proposal will be cited as "Statement at \_."

I, Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, certify that the above order was adopted on January 22, 2004, by a vote of 5-0.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dorothy M. Gunn", is written over a horizontal line.

Dorothy M. Gunn, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board