

Board Sends to First Notice a Proposal to Update Water Quality Standards for Sulfate and Total Dissolved Solids

The Illinois Pollution Control Board, on September 20, 2007, adopted a first notice proposal in the rulemaking, Triennial Review of Sulfate and Total dissolved Solids Water Quality Standards: Proposed Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.102(b)(6), 302.102(b)(8), 302.102(b)(10), 302.208(g), 309.103(c)(3), 405.109(b)(2)(A), 409.109(b)(2)(B), 406.100(d); Repealer of 35 Ill. Adm. Code 406.203 and Part 407; and Proposed New 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.208(h) (R07-9). The proposal updates existing general use water quality standards for sulfate and total dissolved solids (TDS). The Board is amending 35 Ill. Adm. Code Parts 302, 309, 405, 406, and 407 of the Board's water and mine-related pollution rules. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) filed the rulemaking proposal on October 23, 2006.

The proposal eliminates the TDS water quality standards for general use waters and adopts a sulfate standard for those waters. Additionally, the proposal also amends the mixing zone regulations to allow mixing in certain small streams when adequate dilution is available. The Board also includes language reflecting the IEPA's policy of allowing mixing in up to 50% of the stream flow when there is less than a 3:1 dilution ratio. Finally, the proposal deletes the provisions addressing separate sulfate and chloride water quality standards for discharges from mining operations. The Board seeks additional comment on the changes made to the Agency's proposal and the economic reasonableness of the proposal.

The IEPA indicated that the proposal fulfills the federal requirement to conduct a "triennial water quality standards" review, and to revise and update water quality standards to ensure that standards are protective of public health and welfare, enhance the quality of water and to promote the purposes of the Clean Water Act.

The Board held two public hearings and accepted comments on this proposal.

Opinions and orders of the Board, hearing transcripts, and other documents in rulemaking records are posted on the Board's Web site and may be downloaded from the Web without charge. Hard copies may be obtained for \$.75 per page from the Clerk's office at 312-814-3629, or by writing to the Clerk's office:

Clerk of the Board
Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph Street
Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

For more information contact Marie Tipsord at 312-814-4925 or email at tipsorm@ipcb.state.il.us.