

Board Sends Amendments to Radium Water Quality Standards to Second First Notice

On April 7, 2005, the Illinois Pollution Control Board proposed its own revised general use water quality standard for radium based on the testimony and comments the Board received since first-notice publication of the rulemaking entitled Revisions To Radium Water Quality Standards: Proposed New 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.307 and Amendments To 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.207 and 302.525. Because of the extent of the changes to the first-notice proposal, the Board found it appropriate to publish the proposal for a second first-notice. At first notice, the Board adopted the proposal originally filed by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) on January 13, 2003. Radium is a naturally occurring radioactive metal that is commonly found in Illinois groundwater.

The Board proposes a new general use water quality standard of 3.75 pCi/L combined radium 226 and 228 to replace the existing radium 226 standard of 1 pCi/L. This new standard will apply to all general use waters of the State as well as the Lake Michigan Basin. The Board's proposal sets a limit of 30 pCi/L combined radium 226 and 228 for any stream receiving discharge from a publicly owned treatment works that accepts wastewater from communities using high radium groundwater as raw drinking water, which applies for the first mile downstream of the point of discharge. Beyond one mile, the 3.75 pCi/L combined radium general use water quality standard applies. The proposal also applies the 3.75 pCi/L standard to the Lake Michigan basin.

In its original proposal, the IEPA proposed to eliminate the general use and Lake Michigan water quality standards for radium of 1 picocurie per liter (pCi/L) radium 226. At the same time, the IEPA proposed to set a standard for combined radium 226 and 228 of 5 pCi/L applicable only to surface waters used for public and food processing water supplies.

The Board found that changes from the original proposal are warranted and that a second first-notice will maximize the opportunity for public comment on the amended proposal. Although the Board does not anticipate holding additional hearings, second first-notice publication in the *Illinois Register* will begin a 45-day period for public comments.

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:

Written comments should contain the rulemaking title and docket number (R04-21) and should be sent to the Clerk's Office at the following address:

Dorothy Gunn, Clerk
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James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph Street
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For more information contact Amy Antonioli at (312) 814-3665 or email at antonioa@ipcb.state.il.us