

Board Authorizes Additional Hearings in Noise Rulemaking

The Illinois Pollution Control Board will hold additional hearings in the rulemaking entitled Proposed New And Updated Rules For Measurement and Numerical Sound Emissions Standards Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 901 and 910, (R03-9). On March 4, 2004, the Board authorized two additional hearings in response to public comments during the first-notice period, and the Board will republish the proposal for first notice. The Board will hold the additional hearings so that companies seeking a site-specific change can fully participate and to allow the Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers the opportunity to testify.

The proposal would create new and update existing regulations governing noise to reflect present scientific standards for many of the sound measurement definitions and techniques contained in the Board's rules. Further, this rulemaking would revise outdated numerical sound emission standards for property line noise sources found at 35 Ill. Adm. Code Parts 901, and add a new Part 910 to the Board's regulations. The new Part incorporates noise measurement techniques currently contained only in Illinois Environmental Protection Agency rules at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 951.

This rulemaking is closely associated with the recently adopted rules in Noise Rule Update Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 900 and 903, (R03-8) that define acoustical terms, pollution sources and sound measurement procedures. The rules adopted in R03-8 are based on updated science, including pertinent American National Standards Institute updates from 1998-2001, and other current scientific publications.

The Board has previously held three public hearings on this proposed rulemaking. Opinions and orders of the Board, hearing transcripts, and other documents in this rulemaking record 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.

Anyone may file public comments on the first-notice amendments. The comment should contain the rulemaking caption and docket number (R03-9) and be sent to:

Dorothy Gunn, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph Street
Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

For more information, please contact Hearing Officer Marie Tipsord at (312) 814-4925 or by e-mail at tipsorm@ipcb.state.il.us.