

## **Illinois Pollution Control Board Sets Hearings on IEPA Proposal to Set Interim Phosphorus Effluent Standard**

The Illinois Pollution Control Board is setting rulemaking hearings to consider new, proposed interim phosphorus effluent standard. On May 14, 2004, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) proposed the phosphorus effluent standard limit higher concentrations of phosphorus that may result in detrimental levels of plant and algae growth in waters of the state. Meanwhile, the IEPA and others develop scientific information to support a proposal for numeric water quality nutrient standards. The IEPA expects to file a nutrient standards rulemaking proposal with the Board in 2007.

In the interim rulemaking to establish an interim effluent standard, the IEPA proposes a total phosphorus limit of 1.0 milligram per liter as a monthly average. Generally, the limit would apply to new or expanded discharges from wastewater treatment plants with either a design average flow of 1.0 million gallons per day or more, or a total phosphorus effluent load of 25 pounds per day or more. But, the interim standards would not apply to new or expanded sources that can "demonstrate that phosphorus is not limiting nutrient in the receiving water or that alternative phosphorus effluent limits are warranted by the aquatic environment in the receiving water."

The proposed standard would not apply to sources that are "grandfathers in." As proposed, this effluent limit would sunset when the Board adopts a numeric water quality standard for phosphorus. All of these proposed changes would be made to one section of the Board's rules: 35 Ill. Adm. Code 304.123.

The hearing officer is in the process of scheduling hearings in this matter. Written comments should contain the rulemaking title and docket number (R04-26) and should be sent to the Clerk's Office at the following address:

Dorothy Gunn, Clerk  
Illinois Pollution Control Board  
James R. Thompson Center  
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