

Board Extends Public Comment Period for Proposal to Amend Radium Water Quality Standards

On June 2, 2005, the Illinois Pollution Control Board (Board) granted the city of Joliet's (Joliet's) motion to extend the second first-notice public comment period through August 15, 2005. On April 7, 2005, the 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 (R04-21). Radium is a naturally occurring radioactive metal that is commonly found in Illinois groundwater.

In its motion for an extension of the public comment period, Joliet asserted that additional time would allow publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) to develop data that would clarify the range of combined radium levels in discharge from POTWs. Joliet contends the data collected will be representative of POTW discharges from a range of varying sized municipalities and sanitary districts that rely on groundwater containing more than 3.75 pCi/L combined radium, including POTW discharges to zero low flow or 7Q10 streams. Joliet contends the data will enhance the record and demonstrate the potential impact of the proposed rule.

The Board's proposal calls for 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.

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
Illinois Pollution Control Board
James R. Thompson Center
100 West Randolph Street
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Chicago, Illinois 60601

For more information contact Amy Antonioli at (312) 814-3665 or email at antonia@ipcb.state.il.us