

Board Sends To First-Notice A Proposed Rulemaking to Revise the Board's Regulations For Air Construction And Operating Permits

On September 15, 2005, the Illinois Pollution Control Board sent to first-notice the rulemaking proposal docketed as In the Matter of: Proposed Amendments to Exemptions From State Permitting Requirements for Plastic Injection Molding Operations (35 Ill. Adm. Code 201.146) (R05-20). The proposal by the Chemical Industry Council of Illinois (CICI) would add one category to the existing list of 59 permit exemptions in Section 201.146. CICI asserts the purpose of this rulemaking is to reduce the burden of state air permitting of low emitting units and activities. According to CICI, the proposed amendments will benefit both the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and owners and operators of plastic injection molding processes.

The proposed amendment would include plastic injection molding operations in the categories of emissions units exempt from state air permitting requirements. CICI states that plastic injection molding operations emit volatile organic material and that emissions from the associated activities covered under the proposed exemption are negligible. CICI contends that because of the low level of emissions generated by plastic injection molding operations, such operations would qualify for the “*de minimis* emissions” exemption in the pending rulemaking Proposed Amendments To Exemptions From State Permitting Requirements (R05-19). However, CICI states that since plastic molding facilities do not require an IEPA-issued air pollution control permit these facilities would not be eligible for that proposed exemption.

Two hearings held in this matter. The first hearing was July 2, 2005, in Chicago. The second hearing was July 15, 2005, in Springfield.

The amendments proposed for first-notice will be published in the *Illinois Register*. Publication will begin an additional public comment period, which will last at least 45 days. Anyone may file public comments on the first-notice amendments. Written comments should contain the rulemaking title and docket number (R05-20) 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
Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

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