

## **Board Adopts Amendments to Radium Water Quality Standards**

On February 16, 2006, the Illinois Pollution Control Board adopted for final notice amended general use water quality standards for radium. The amendments contained in the docket 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 revise the general use water quality standard, applying the standard to combined radium 226 and 228, as opposed to the current standard applicable only to radium 226. The amendments also add a combined radium standard applicable to public and food processing water supplies.

The Board sets the standard of 3.75 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) radium 226 and 228 as an annual average value rather than an instantaneous maximum standard. This standard applies to all general use waters of the State, including stream segments that receive discharge from Public Owned Treatment Works, as well as the Lake Michigan Basin. The Board also adopts a separate 5.0 pCi/L combined radium standard to Public and Food Processing Supply intakes as an instantaneous maximum standard.

Radium is a naturally occurring radioactive metal that is commonly found in Illinois groundwater. This rulemaking does not impact Illinois' drinking water standard of 5.0 pCi/L for combined radium.

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:

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