

## **Board Proposes Water Quality Standards in the Chicago Area Waterways System and Lower Des Plaines River Subdocket D**

On March 19, 2015, the Board adopted a second notice opinion and order for proposed water quality standards for the Chicago Area Waterway System (CAWS) and Lower Des Plaines River (LDPR) that are necessary to meet the aquatic life uses for those waterways. The proposal is docketed as In the Matter of: Water Quality Standards and Effluent Limitations for the Chicago Area Waterway system and Lower Des Plaines River: Proposed Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 301, 302, 303, and 304, R08-9(D).

The Board is proceeding to second notice with standards for constituents as proposed at first notice. However, the Board is delaying the effective date of the 500 mg/L chloride standard for waters other than the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal (CSSC) for three years. Until three years after the effective date of the rule, from December 1 until April 30, the CAWS and LDPR waters will continue to be required to meet the total dissolved solids standard (TDS) of 1,500 mg/L. The interim TDS standard sunsets in three years. For the period of May 1 through November 30, the 500 mg/L standard applies to all waterways. The Board proposed that the CSSC will have a site-specific numeric standard for chloride of 620 mg/L as an acute water quality standards and 990 mg/L as a chronic water quality standard for chloride from December 1 until April 30. The CSSC is not subject to the interim TDS standard.

Additionally, the Board delays the effective date of the water quality standards for temperature for three years. At the end of that period, the Board proposed that the General Use temperature standards apply to the waterways.

The Board's second-notice proposal will be reviewed by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules.

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 from the Clerk's office upon payment of reproduction fees as prescribed by of the Freedom of Information Act:

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