

Board Sends to Second Notice a Proposal Concerning the Control of Mercury Emissions from Coal-fired Electric Generating Units

The Illinois Pollution Control Board on November 2, 2006, adopted for second notice a proposal to control mercury emissions from coal-fired electric generating units (EGUs). The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), on March 14, 2006, filed the proposal docketed as In the Matter of: Proposed New 35 Ill. Adm. Code 225 Control of Emissions from Large Combustion Sources (Mercury) to satisfy the State's obligation to submit a state implementation plan to address the requirements of Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR) and Section 9.10 of the Act. The rules would require Illinois coal-fired EGUs to reduce mercury emissions by an average of 90 percent by July 2009.

The second notice proposal adopted by the Board includes a temporary technology based standard (TTBS) and a multi-pollutant control system (MPS). The TTBS may be used to demonstrate compliance with the proposed standards if the EGUs are equipped and operated with control systems which include halogenated carbon sorbent injection and either a cold side electrostatic precipitator or a fabric filter. The MPS is a voluntary provision that allows Illinois units to comply with mercury reductions using co-benefits from SO₂ and NO_x emissions reductions.

The Board received over 7,000 public comments, held 18 days of hearings, and entered over 100 exhibits into the record in this proceeding. After reviewing the entirety of the record the Board found that the proposal, as amended at second notice, is technically feasible and economically reasonable. The Board found that the rule allows flexibility to achieve compliance and will provide health benefits for the citizens of Illinois.

During the 45-day second-notice period, the Board will accept comments only from the Joint Committee on Administrative Review.

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:

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