

The Board Will Hold Hearings on IEPA Proposal to Amend Boron, Fluoride, and Manganese Water Quality Standard Rules, R11-18

The Illinois Pollution Control Board (Board), on December 16, 2010, accepted for hearing a proposal to amend the Board's water quality standard (WQS) rules for boron, fluoride and manganese. The rulemaking proposal, docketed as In the Matter of: Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards for Boron, Fluoride and Manganese: Amendments to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.Subparts B, C, E, F and 303.312 (R11-18) also includes various other clean-up amendments and updates. The proposal was filed on December 2, 2010, by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

The Board adopted the existing general use & Lake Michigan basin WQS for boron, fluoride, and manganese in 1972. The current standard for boron and manganese are 1.0 milligrams per liter (mg/l), and for fluoride is 1.4 mg/l.

Among other things, the IEPA proposes designating the existing general use WQS for boron and fluoride as "public and food processing" WQS, and proposes higher new general use WQS for these parameters. Additionally, the IEPA is proposing a new "public and food processing" WQS of 1.0 mg/l for manganese to replace the existing standard. No changes are proposed for the secondary contact and indigenous aquatic life use standards, which the Agency states it will address in Docket R08-9(B).

The IEPA states that the proposed amendments are a culmination of the "triennial review" of standards required by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The IEPA states that it worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Natural History Survey to develop the proposed new standards.

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

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