

Board Proposes “Identical-in-Substance” Amendments to Wastewater Pretreatment Standards

On September 17, 2020, the Board proposed rule amendments to Illinois’ wastewater pretreatment standards. The amendments will keep these standards “identical in substance” to those of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

During the first half of 2020, USEPA revised its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) electronic reporting rule as it relates to the municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) program. Although the MS4 program is irrelevant to wastewater pretreatment, USEPA also revised general reporting requirements that are pertinent to reporting for wastewater pretreatment. The reporting requirements that USEPA revised are incorporated by reference in the Board’s rules. The Board therefore proposed updating the incorporation by reference to include USEPA’s revisions.

The Board also proposed a limited number of corrective amendments that are not based on USEPA action taken during the first half of 2020. Significant among the corrections is the proposed deletion of an obsolete Board rule relating to USEPA’s Project XL. The Board added the rule in 2002 at request of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC). However, MWRDGC terminated the XL project in 2004, and USEPA terminated its Project XL in 2009.

The Board will accept public comments on the proposed amendments for at least 45 day after their publication in the *Illinois Register*. The Board expects to adopt final rules long before the statutory due date of April 15, 2021.

The Board’s rulemaking is captioned Wastewater Pretreatment Update, USEPA Amendments (January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020), docket R21-8. Here are links to (1) the Board’s [opinion and order](#), which includes the text of the proposed amendments, and (2) the Board’s [addendum](#), which provides tables of information concerning the rulemaking. For more information, please contact Hearing Officer Michael McCambridge at 312-814-6924 or michael.mccambridge@illinois.gov.