ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276 • (217) 782-3397
JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR JOHN J. KIM, DIRECTOR

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City of Chicago Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbon Concentrations in Background Soils

Following the adoption of soil area background concentrations for Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) in 35 Illinois Administrative Code Part 742 Appendix A, Table H (Table H), it was discovered the PAH background concentrations listed for the City of Chicago are incorrect. The concentrations were inadvertently calculated for the 60th parametric percentile rather than the 95th parametric percentile as intended. The background concentrations set forth in Table H for metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas correctly reflect the 95th parametric percentile.

The Illinois EPA's contractor that originally calculated the PAH background concentrations for Table H re-calculated the background concentrations for the City of Chicago to properly reflect the 95th parametric percentile. Those concentrations are set forth below.

Until Table H is amended to reflect these concentrations, sites located within the City of Chicago may be able to use these concentrations to determine area background levels as follows: A person required or electing to perform investigative or remedial activities under 35 Ill. Adm. Code Part 742 can request the concentrations be approved for use in determining area background levels pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 742.405(b)(2). If approved by the Illinois EPA, the concentrations may then be used as area background levels in accordance with 35 Ill. Adm. Code 742.415.

Chemical Name	Published Table H Background for Chicago[a] (mg/kg)	Corrected Table H Background (at 95th Percentile) for Chicago[a] (mg/kg)
Acenaphthene	0.09	0.94
Acenaphthylene	0.03	0.25
Anthracene	0.25	2.6
Benzo(a)anthracene	1.1	11
Benzo(a)pyrene	1.3	11
Benzo(b)fluoranthene	1.5	13
Benzo(g,h,i)perylene	0.68	4.4
Benzo(k)fluoranthene	0.99	8.1
Chrysene	1.2	11
Dibenzo(a,h)anthracene	0.20	1.0

Fluoranthene	2.7	28
Fluorene	0.10	1.1
Indeno(1,2,3-c,d)pyrene	0.86	5.8
Naphthalene	0.04	0.26
Phenanthrene	1.3	15
Pyrene	1.9	18
[a] Chicago means within the corporate limits of the City of Chicago.		