



Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Notice of Public Comment Period 2024 Draft Revised Language Access Plan

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA or Agency) is accepting public comments on its 2024 Draft Revised Language Access Plan (Draft Plan). This public notice provides a brief background on the Draft Plan and instructions on how to submit comments and request additional information.

The Draft Plan is available at <https://epa.illinois.gov/public-notices/general-notices.html> or by contacting the Illinois EPA in one of the ways below.

How to Submit Comments

Please reference “**Public Comment 2024 Draft Revised Language Access Plan**” in your request. The Agency’s point of contact is **Paulina Lopez-Santos**, Office of Environmental Justice.

Mailing Address:

115 S La Salle St. Suite 2203
Chicago, IL 60603

Email Address:

EPA.OEJ@illinois.gov

Phone: (312) 832-2182 – if unavailable, please leave a voicemail.

TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) Number: (866) 273-5488

Public comments must be received no later than **11:59 PM on November 6, 2024**. Written comments are preferred and should be submitted in writing to the mailing address or e-mail address listed above. If unable to make written comments, comments may also be made by calling the above phone number. Language access services are available at no charge by contacting the Office of Environmental Justice.

Brief Background

On February 14, 2024, Illinois EPA voluntarily entered into an Informal Resolution Agreement (IRA) with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to resolve a civil rights complaint concerning the Illinois EPA’s issuance of an air construction permit for a metal shredder to be located on the Southeast Side of Chicago. Under the IRA, Illinois EPA committed to revising several of its plans and policies, including its current Language Access Plan.

The 2024 Draft Plan provides Agency employees with resources and a protocol for interacting with identified Limited English Proficiency (LEP) individuals including the availability of interpretation and translation services at no cost to the requestor. In addition, the plan reflects the Agency’s policy that when individuals need language assistance to meaningfully participate in Illinois EPA’s programs or events, opportunities for such assistance will be identified and pursued when circumstances meet the guidelines of this Plan. The 2024 Draft Plan strengthens Illinois EPA’s commitment to ensuring the Agency meets its nondiscrimination obligations under applicable civil rights laws.

For more information related to language access, please visit [Illinois EPA’s Language Access webpage](#).