

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Notice of Comment Period and Public Meeting 35 Ill. Adm. Code 663: Procedures for Issuing Loans from the Public Water Supply Loan Program to Provide Funding for Lead Service Line Replacement

The Illinois EPA is proposing to adopt 35 Ill. Adm. Code 663: Procedures for Issuing Loans from the Public Water Supply Loan Program to Provide Funding for Lead Service Line Replacement. The rules will govern the application process, prioritization of applications, and distribution of funds provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to the Illinois EPA's Public Water Supply Loan Program for lead service line replacement activities. Prior to submitting the proposed rule for 1st Notice in the Illinois Register for adoption, the Illinois EPA is soliciting public comment on draft proposed rules.

The Illinois EPA will accept written public comment until February 10, 2023. Comments should be submitted to EPA.663rulemaking@illinois.gov. All comments, including proposed alternative language, received by Illinois EPA will be considered prior to the Agency filing the proposed rule in the Illinois Register. Questions about the process or rulemaking should be submitted to the e-mail address above.

The Illinois EPA will host a virtual public meeting to review the draft proposed rule and answer questions concerning the proposal. The meeting will be held at 1:00 pm on Thursday, January 19, 2023. The meeting link is:
<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m569af6d8aee25f47526dcb7b583c617d>.
Computer and telephone connection instructions are provided at the bottom of this Notice.

Requests for interpretation (including sign language) or requests to address special needs must be made by January 5, 2023 by contacting the Illinois EPA by email at EPA.663rulemaking@illinois.gov, by calling (217) 785-8724, or by calling (866) 273-5488 (TDD phone number).

The proposed rule will provide a definition of a "disadvantaged community" and a project prioritization scoring system using various census metrics. Projects will be scored based upon the census tract(s) information for the project location. Funds will be provided at an interest rate of 0% with a maximum loan term of either 30 or 40 years. Principal forgiveness funds will be provided to the projects receiving the most points via the scoring system based upon the census information for the census tract(s) encompassing the project area. The application process will mirror that of the existing Public Water Supply Loan Program.

Public Meeting Connection Instructions

If you have questions or need assistance with Webex, please contact the Illinois EPA by email at EPA.663.rulemaking@illinois.gov or by calling (217) 785-8724.

Cisco Webex Webinar Information

Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023

Time: 1:00 pm

Webinar Number: 2451 328 1298

Webinar Password: Fund (3863 from phones)

Connect by Computer

1. Select this link, which will direct you to the Webex webpage for the meeting:
<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m569af6d8aee25f47526dcb7b583c617d>.
2. Enter your information (name and address) and select "Join Now". You may be prompted for a Meeting Number or Meeting Password, above.
3. An audio connection is required. The best connection option is "Call Me" (from the "Select Audio Connection" drop down, select "Call Me"). Input or select your telephone number.

Connect by Dial-in Phone

1. Call +1-312-535-8110
2. You will be prompted to enter the access code or meeting number. Enter the Meeting Number, above, and select the # sign.

Tips

- Find a quiet location with a power source for your device.
- Close all background applications or browser sessions.
- Reduce distractions and practice good meeting etiquette.
- Non-smartphone cellular (mobile) phones or landlines provide an audio-only experience.
- Smartphone, iPad or Tablets use the Webex mobile application.