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JB Pritzker, Governor

John J. Kim, Director

Hearing Order

Extension for Availability of Summary and Agency Statement 2023 Triennial Review

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) Bureau of Water is conducting a triennial review of the State's Water Quality Standards (WQS) consistent with the Clean Water Act (CWA). The purpose of the triennial review is to assess, develop, update, and revise WQS once every three years in accordance with the CWA. A public hearing was conducted in this matter on July 6, 2023. The Illinois EPA accepted written public comments and results of an online survey, which was available to the public for ranking potential project topics regarding water quality, through September 7, 2023 when the record closed. The Illinois EPA will ultimately propose relevant WQS to the Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB); the Illinois EPA's accomplishment of the projects depends on the resources available to prepare, submit, and defend relevant WQS proposals before the IPCB.

The Illinois EPA is required to provide a final selection of ranked topics in a publicly available "Summary and Agency Statement" pursuant to 35 Ill. Adm. Code 164.401(d) within 45 days after closing of the record. However, prior to issuance of the Summary and Agency Statement, the Illinois EPA will perform a "Workload Analysis" to determine additional resources that will be necessary to assist the Illinois EPA in selecting project topics that can move forward in a timely manner. The Workload Analysis will also enable the Illinois EPA to determine if additional time will be necessary to develop the proposal for the IPCB, and will allow the Illinois EPA to identify any known opposition for the proposal that may result in extended hearings before the IPCB.

By this Hearing Order, the Illinois EPA hereby extends issuance of the Summary and Agency Statement until 11:59 p.m. CT on December 6, 2023.

Jeffrey J. Suy, Illinois EPA Hearing Officer

Office of Community Relations

Date: October 19, 2023