

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA)

Hearing Officer Statements

2023 Triennial Review

Public Hearing July 6, 2023

PLEASE PRESS RECORD. Good [AFTERNOON/EVENING]. The current time is _____ p.m. Central Time. On behalf of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) and its Director John Kim, welcome to today's hearing. My name is Jeff Guy, and I am the Illinois EPA hearing officer. We look forward to receiving your questions and comments after the Illinois EPA's opening remarks. If you have connection or audio issues, please attempt to reconnect.

The Illinois EPA Bureau of Water is conducting a triennial review of the State's Water Quality Standards (WQS) as required by 40 CFR 131.20 and consistent with the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(c)(1). The purpose of the triennial review is to assess, develop, update, and revise WQS once every three years in accordance with the CWA. This public hearing is being held pursuant to 35 Illinois Administrative Code Part 164. These regulations are available on the Illinois Pollution Control Board (IPCB) website at pcb.illinois.gov. My responsibility as the hearing officer is to ensure that this hearing is conducted in a fair and orderly manner according to these regulations.

The triennial review process will not be complete without public input, which will form an essential part of Illinois EPA decisions on projects to address during the next three years. There are several avenues for meaningful public participation in the triennial review process, including an [online survey](#) to facilitate the selection and ranking of project topics for the next three years, a public comment period to solicit written public comments on priority topics for the next three years, and this public hearing to answer questions and accept comments from the public. Illinois EPA staff will provide more information regarding the triennial review process, potential project topics, and online survey momentarily.

Information regarding the triennial review, project topics, survey, and other pertinent information can be accessed on the Illinois EPA Triennial Review and General Notice webpages. Following the online survey, public hearing, and public comment period, the Illinois EPA will present a final selection of ranked topics in a publicly available ‘Summary and Agency Statement’ document. The Illinois EPA will then propose relevant WQS to the IPCB. The Illinois EPA’s accomplishment of the projects will ultimately depend on the resources available to prepare, submit, and defend relevant WQS proposals before the IPCB. Those that provide their email or mailing address will be notified in regards to the availability of the Summary and Agency Statement, which will also be posted on the Illinois EPA Triennial Review and General Notice webpages.

In addition to accepting oral comments this evening, the Illinois EPA is also accepting written comments during the public comment period. As indicated in the public notice, written comments must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Central Time on August 7, 2023. If you would like to provide written comments, please email your comments to EPA.PublicHearingCom@Illinois.gov. Written comments may also be mailed to the Illinois EPA, attention Jeff Guy, Hearing Officer, 1021 North Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276. Please reference ‘Triennial Review’ in your email or letter. Written comments may be submitted to the Illinois EPA at any time during the public comment period. Although we will continue to accept written comments through August 7, 2023, tonight is the only time that we will accept oral comments.

At this time, Illinois EPA staff will introduce themselves and provide information we believe is relevant to today’s hearing. This will be followed by additional instructions from me on how we will be taking public questions and comments.

Illinois EPA Presentations

As the hearing officer, I intend to treat everyone in a respectful manner, and I ask that Illinois EPA staff and the public please do the same. Comments should be related to the Triennial Review. If your comments fall outside of the scope of this hearing, I may ask you to proceed to another issue. If you have extensive comments, please consider giving only a summary of those comments and then submitting the entirety of your comments to the Illinois EPA before the end of the public comment period on August 7, 2023. While the record is open, all comments will be placed into the hearing record as exhibits.

Public Comments from Registered Speakers

When I call on you to speak, please ensure to unmute your line and then state your name and affiliation for the record. For the benefit of creating an accurate hearing record, please spell your last name. Please keep your comments courteous and on-topic and no longer than five minutes. This public hearing is being recorded and the link to the recording will be posted on the Illinois EPA Triennial Review and General Notice webpages in the same place where the public notice and other pertinent documents have been posted for public review.

Public Comments using Raise-Hand Feature

During today's hearing, you have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments by raising your hand. When I call on you to speak, please ensure to unmute your line and then state your name and affiliation for the record and spell your last name. When you are finished speaking, please select unmute and lower your hand. If you called in and want to comment, select *3 to raise your hand. If you called in today, select *6 to mute and unmute your line. Again, please keep your comments courteous and on-topic and no longer than five minutes.

That concludes our public hearing. Thank you for your participation today. If you did not present oral comments but still wish to comment, please submit your written comments to the Illinois EPA as directed in the public notice, which can be accessed on the Illinois EPA Triennial Review and General Public Notices webpages. Written comments will be included in the hearing record and reviewed by the Illinois EPA as the Summary and Agency Statement is prepared.

Again, the public comment period ends on August 7, 2023. Please send your written comments to the attention of Jeff Guy, as indicated in the public notice. Pertinent documents associated with the triennial review are available on the Illinois EPA Triennial Review and General Notice webpages. You can also obtain documents at the Illinois EPA office located at 1021 North Grand Avenue East, Springfield, Illinois. You can obtain copies of these documents through a Freedom of Information Request to the Illinois EPA. This can be done through our website, or you can contact myself directly if you need help with this request.

Again, thank you for your participation today. The current time is _____ p.m. Central Time and this public hearing is adjourned.