

ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Notice of Public Meetings for Illinois EPA's Draft Illinois Smoke Management Plan for the State of Illinois.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) will hold two public meetings. The first will be held at 10:00 am on Thursday, December 4, 2008 in Room F-119, Hancock Conference Center, Building F, Parking Lot A, John A. Logan College, 700 Logan College Road, Carterville, Illinois.

The second meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 17, 2008, at 10:00 am, in the Hawthorn Room, Visitors Center, Morton Arboretum, 4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle, Illinois.

The purpose of these meetings is to solicit input from the public on Illinois EPA's Draft Smoke Management Plan (SMP). Pursuant to the U.S. EPA's 1998 "Interim Air Quality Policy on Wildland and Prescribed Fires" and U.S. EPA's 1999 Regional Haze Rule, the Illinois EPA has developed a statewide Smoke Management Plan to address smoke from prescriptive fires (prairie and forest) used to achieve resource benefits. The goals of the SMP are to coordinate with land managers to develop a basic framework of procedures and requirements for managing smoke from prescriptive fires; to mitigate the nuisance and public safety hazards posed by smoke intrusions into populated areas; to avoid significant deterioration of air quality and potential NAAQS violations; and to avoid visibility impacts in Federal Class I Areas.

Comments or inquiries about Illinois' Smoke Management Plan should be directed to Rob Kaleel, Illinois EPA, Bureau of Air, 1021 North Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276. We are also accepting e-mail comments at the following e-mail address: epa.smpcomments@illinois.gov. We will accept written and e-mail comments until December 30, 2008. Comments need not be notarized.

If you need directions for the two locations of the public meetings, see the following web sites: John A. Logan College: http://www.jalc.edu/online_student_handbook/maps/ and the Morton Arboretum: www.mortonarb.org