

Air Seminar 2025: Permitting with Purpose

August 27, 2025 | 8:00am - 4:00pm
Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL

Registration **7:30am - 8:00am**

Welcome **8:00am - 8:05am**

Kelly Thompson, Executive Director
Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group

**Environmental GPS: Where We're Going
and How We're Getting There** **8:05am - 9:00am**

The presentation will cover the Agency's immediate program priorities and the operational changes being made to accomplish them.

James Jennings, Acting Director
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Illinois Air Permitting in 2025: **9:00am - 10:00am**

IEPA representative discusses Title V permitting, regulatory developments, and effectively reaching consensus between the Agency and industry.

Ryan Hendrickson, CAAPP Unit Manager
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

EJ in Permitting and Expanded EJ Efforts **10:00am - 10:45am**

The presentation will cover Illinois EPA's current approach to incorporating environmental justice principles into permitting (mapping, public outreach, and cumulative impacts) and other Illinois EPA activities and programs.

Chris Pressnall, Office of Environmental Justice Manager
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Break

10:45am - 11:00am

**Regulatory Development and the Board's Role Amid
Evolving Federal and State Priorities** **11:00am - 11:45am**

A presentation covering the structure of the Illinois Pollution Control Board and its staff; how the Board is navigating the fast-changing federal environmental landscape; the recent updates to the New Source Review Part 203 rules; and other regulatory updates of note. In addition, reviewing the basics of how a rulemaking proceeds through the Board.

Jennifer Van Wie, Board Member
Illinois Pollution Control Board

Lunch

11:45am - 12:45pm

Future of Illinois Energy

12:00pm - 12:35pm

A discussion on legislative efforts to develop a broad energy package for consideration either in the fall veto session or next spring, potentially including provisions imposing new emissions requirements and energy incentives dealing with battery storage, nuclear energy, and energy efficiency.

Alec Messina, Partner, HeplerBroom

Illinois EPA's Approach to AI Adoption **12:45pm - 1:45pm**

Learn how the Illinois EPA is preparing to responsibly integrate AI into permitting, inspections, and compliance. This session highlights IEPA's focus on strong data, transparent governance, and AI as a force multiplier to improve efficiency, fairness, and environmental outcomes.

Andy Martin, Group Chief Information Officer
for Natural & Cultural Resources
James Jennings, Acting Director
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Air Permitting- U.S. EPA Oversight of State Programs **1:45pm - 2:20pm**

U.S. EPA Region 5 will share recent and upcoming actions that will impact air permitting.

Genevieve Damico, Supervisor Air Permits Section
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5

Break

2:20pm - 2:35pm

Compliance and Enforcement 201: Beyond the Basics **2:35pm - 3:05pm**

A discussion on Illinois environmental enforcement basics including recent trends and developments. An in-depth exploration of industry questions covering topics such as Section 43(a) referrals, supplemental environmental projects, and enforcement statistics.

Andrew Armstrong, Chief Legal Counsel
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

**Permitting in Practice: Challenges and
Paths to Resolution** **3:05pm - 3:55pm**

Panel discussion addressing permitting questions along with tips on best practices including paths to resolution.

Moderator/Panelist:

Melissa Brown, Partner, HeplerBroom

Panelists:

LaDonna Driver, Partner, HeplerBroom

Connor Rutledge, Senior Environmental Consultant, Trinity Consultants

Bryan Higgins, Managing Consultant, Trinity Consultants

Closing Remarks **3:55pm - 4:00pm**

Kelly Thompson, Executive Director
Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group

Thank you for attending IERG's 2025 Air Seminar!

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