



Air Compliance in Practice: From Regulatory Foundations to Permitting and Enforcement

April 16, 2026 | 8:00am – 4:30 pm
President Abraham Lincoln DoubleTree Hotel | Springfield, IL

8:00am – 8:05am

Welcome

Kelly Thompson

Executive Director
IERG

8:05am – 8:30am *Keynote Speaker*

State of the Illinois EPA

An overview of the Illinois EPA's operational and programmatic priorities for 2026.

James Jennings

Acting Director
IL EPA

8:30am – 9:15am

Air Quality, Standards, & Regulatory Updates

A discussion on Illinois' current status regarding air quality standards for ozone and PM2.5 in the Chicago and St. Louis areas. Updates regarding current and upcoming regulatory activity that the Bureau of Air is conducting.

Rory Davis

Regulatory Development
Unit Manager
IL EPA

9:15am – 10:00am

Making Air Permitting Work Better – For Everyone

This presentation provides a practical look at how air permitting in Illinois works and how to navigate the process more effectively. An emphasis on how the Agency and industry can work together to improve permit quality, consistency, and overall timelines.

Ryan Hendrickson

CAAPP Unit Manager
IL EPA

10:00am – 10:15am

Break

10:15am – 11:15am

Source Monitoring

This presentation will provide information regarding general CEMS expectations, stack test reporting requirements and best practices, protocols submittal requirements and best practices and compliance determinations.

Kevin Mattison

Source Emissions Monitoring
Unit Supervisor
IL EPA

11:15am – 12:00pm

Air Inspection Program

An outline of general expectations for air inspections, required documentation and reporting practices, compliance determination procedures, and recommended post-inspection follow up to ensure appropriate resolution and tracking.

Vikash Bhakta

Field Operations Section Manager
IL EPA



12:00pm – 1:00pm

Lunch

1:00pm – 1:45pm

The Illinois Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP)

The Illinois SBEAP Program, some recent progress and successes.

Ross Cooper

SBEAP Program Manager
Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

1:45pm – 2:45pm

Current and Emerging Issues in Air Regulations and Compliance

Panel Discussion

Genevieve Damico

Supervisor Air Permits Section
US EPA Region 5

U.S. EPA Region 5 Air Updates

Region 5 recent and upcoming actions that will impact air permitting.

Mike Liebert

Air Quality Manager
Burns & McDonnell

Regulatory Updates

Regulatory updates on the power sector, the GHG Endangerment Finding Repeal, and the future of permitting data centers.

Mike Zebell

Senior Program Manager
TRC

Practical Compliance Tips

Air permit compliance auditing process description, tips on common findings, and a pathway to continuous improvement.

2:45pm – 3:00pm

Break

3:00pm-4:15pm

Violation Notices & Enforcement

Panel Discussion

The panel will discuss the basics of the Violation Notice process with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and environmental enforcement cases brought by the Illinois Attorney General's Office. Insight and best practices from an industry perspective will also be provided.

Andrew Armstrong

IEPA Chief Legal Counsel
IL EPA

Melissa Brown

Partner
HeplerBroom

Christina Briggs

IL AGO Environmental Deputy Bureau Chief-Springfield
Illinois Attorney General Office

4:15pm-4:20pm

Closing

Kelly Thompson

Executive Director
IERG



Thank you for attending IERG's 2026 Air Seminar!

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