



IERG ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL
REGULATORY GROUP
Illinois' Premier Environmental Business Association

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

Delivering Timely Environmental Intelligence to Illinois Industry

A Year of Active Regulatory and Legislative Change

2025 was defined by a high volume of regulatory and legislative activity at both the state and federal levels. IERG tracked and communicated developments across key rulemakings and policy initiatives, including groundwater quality standards (Part 620), NOx RACT updates (Part 217), CCR regulations, and key federal program developments.

Through consistent monitoring and coordination with agency staff, industry stakeholders, and coalition partners, IERG ensured members were informed and positioned to respond to emerging requirements. This included real-time updates, targeted alerts, and opportunities for member engagement on rulemakings, comments, and policy discussions.



Illinois State Capitol Building (Photo credit: Kelly Thompson)

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**YEAR IN
REVIEW**

FROM THE CHAIR



A Milestone Year for IERG

In 2025, IERG marked its 40th anniversary, reflecting on four decades of service to Illinois industry and engagement in environmental policy and regulatory matters. This year represented a point of transition, as IERG transitioned to a new office and a new organizational structure. IERG looks forward to continued growth as a membership organization focused on serving its members' environmental permitting and regulatory needs.

IERG's team remains a core strength of the organization. With three full-time staff and two subject matter expert consultants, the team brings more than 100 years of combined experience in environmental regulation, policy, and permitting, enabling IERG to provide members with practical insight and informed perspectives across a wide range of regulatory issues.

Over the course of the year, IERG issued more than 240 member updates through our member-only portal, covering state and federal regulatory developments, legislative activity, and agency initiatives. These updates were supported by regular workgroup meetings, member calls, and direct engagement with regulators, ensuring our members had meaningful opportunities to participate in the process.

IERG also expanded its programming and outreach, providing additional forums for discussion and collaboration through webinars, seminars, coalition engagement, and introduced a new environmental and energy subscription service. These efforts reinforced our commitment to serving as a trusted resource for Illinois businesses operating under complex environmental frameworks.

As we move forward, IERG will continue to build on this foundation—providing clear insights, facilitating engagement, and supporting members in navigating an increasingly dynamic regulatory environment.

Andrea Coffman
IERG Chair
ADM





2025 MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

January

Launched the year with extensive regulatory tracking, including regional haze, groundwater standards, and federal EJ policy changes.

February

Coordinated member engagement on Universal Waste Rule development and hosted key discussions on PFAS and EJ proposals.



March

Significant rulemaking activity, including PM2.5 designations, NSR updates, and coordinated member comments and meetings with IEPA.

April

Major progress on Part 620 groundwater rules and NOx RACT updates advanced, along with federal energy and permitting developments tracked.

May

Intensive legislative monitoring, including energy omnibus legislation and continued federal regulatory updates.



June

IERG released its 2025 Spring Legislative Summary and continued engagement on CCR, energy policy, and federal rulemakings.

July

Ongoing federal regulatory updates, PFAS-related developments, and increased member participation in comment opportunities.

August

Member surveys and engagement on air program issues, monitoring requirements, and federal oversight developments.

September

Quarterly workgroup cycle with key updates on PFAS, groundwater standards, rulemakings, and ozone policy changes.



October

Focus on energy legislation during the veto session, ozone nonattainment issues, and continued comment development and advocacy.

November

Active comment submissions on EJ rulemaking, water quality standards, and ozone redesignation proposals.



December

Final rulemaking developments and continued member engagement on water quality, ozone, and federal regulatory proposals.



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DELIVERING MEMBER VALUE
Regulatory Tracking and Member Engagement

Regulatory Tracking

IERG tracked numerous Illinois and federal rulemakings in 2025, including groundwater quality standards (Part 620), NOx RACT (Part 217), CCR regulations, and WOTUS developments. Members received timely, actionable updates on regulatory changes that could impact permitting, compliance, and operations.

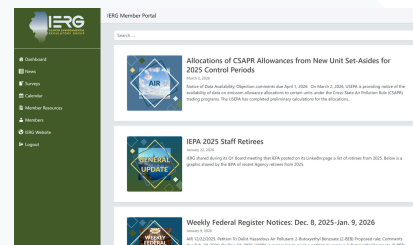


Legislative Monitoring

IERG provided consistent legislative intelligence via weekly recaps and targeted updates on major legislation, including Illinois' energy omnibus bill. These updates helped members stay informed and assess potential business impacts.

Member Engagement

More than 240 member alerts and direct requests for input were delivered through the IERG Member-only portal. IERG actively engages its members in reviewing draft rules, preparing comments to the state and federal agencies, and participating in agency discussions, ensuring industry perspectives are represented.



Webinars and Seminars

IERG delivered six webinars and hosted three seminars in 2025, providing environmental and regulatory insight for over 200 environmental professionals on critical environmental and energy topics.

Member Workgroups

IERG reintroduced and hosted its regular Land, Water, Air, and Environmental Justice workgroup meetings, providing members a forum to discuss regulatory developments and coordinate responses. This provides members with an additional opportunity to engage on issues directly impacting their operations and to gain insight from other environmental professionals.



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REGULATORY, LEGISLATIVE and Member-Driven Advocacy



Land and Water Conference

Land and Water Permitting, Waste, and Water Quality

IERG actively engaged on significant land and water regulatory initiatives in 2025, providing members with updates on groundwater standards, stormwater permitting, water quality criteria, and opportunities to influence regulatory decisions affecting industrial operations.

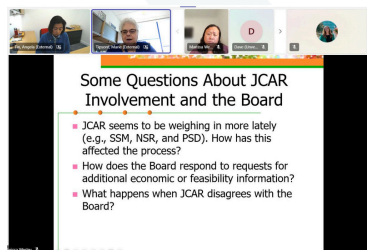
Air Matters

Air Permitting, NO_x, and Ozone Policy

Air program developments remained a central focus, including NO_x RACT rulemaking (Part 217), NSR revisions, and ozone nonattainment and redesignation issues. IERG provided real-time updates and coordinated member input on technical rulemakings and federal air program actions, helping members understand compliance implications and upcoming requirements.

Environmental Justice EJ Policy and Program Integration

IERG monitored the growing role of environmental justice (EJ) in regulatory and legislative initiatives, including Board proceedings, EJ mapping tools, and agency policies. Members received updates and opportunities to provide input on potential permitting and project development impacts.



Webinar with the Pollution Control Board

Waste and Materials Management CCR, Universal Waste and PFAS

IERG remained engaged on CCR, Universal Waste Rule, and PFAS initiatives, keeping members informed of regulatory developments, stakeholder discussions, and evolving compliance obligations.



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Advocacy, Coordination and Industry Representation



How IERG Represents Its Members



Direct Regulatory Engagement

IERG facilitated direct engagement with Illinois EPA and other state and federal agencies through meetings, calls, and coordinated stakeholder discussions on rulemakings including PM2.5 designations, CCR programs, and water quality standards.



Comment Development & Submissions

Throughout 2025, IERG supported the development and submission of formal comments on key rulemakings and policy initiatives, including air monitoring plans, water quality proposals, and legislative matters, ensuring that member perspectives were reflected in regulatory outcomes.



Member Input & Collaboration

IERG regularly issued targeted member requests for feedback on draft regulations, legislative proposals, and technical issues, helping to shape coordinated industry positions on matters such as air monitoring requirements, EJ proposals, and energy policy.



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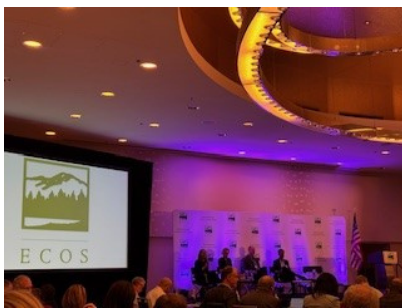
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EXPERIENCE. INSIGHT. ADVOCACY.

Team IERG and Expertise

IERG's work is supported by a fully staffed team, including three full-time professionals and two subject matter expert consultants. Collectively, the team brings **more than 100 years of experience** in environmental policy, permitting, and regulatory compliance, providing members with trusted, practical insight across a wide range of program areas.



USEPA Administrator Lee Zeldin speaks at the ECOS conference.

Industry Engagement and Representation

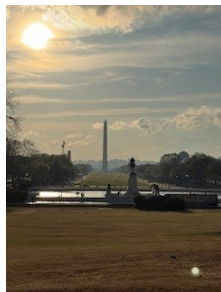
In 2025, IERG staff actively represented member interests at **key national and regional events**, including the Spring Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) meeting in Washington, D.C., and the Fall ECOS meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico. These engagements provided valuable opportunities to track national policy developments and maintain relationships with regulators and peer organizations.



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SUPPORTING ILLINOIS INDUSTRY
Your Leading Team of Experts



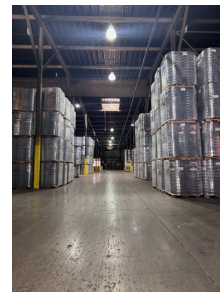
Washington, D.C.



U.S. EPA building



Member facility visit



Site Visits and Industry Insight

IERG's team also participated in **site visits** to better understand real-world operational and compliance considerations, including tours of the Amazon Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and a member facility in South Chicago at Sims Metal and Liberty Steel during the reopening of its Peoria, Illinois operations.

The Next Generation of Environmental Professionals

IERG hosted two **student interns** in 2025, supporting the development of future environmental professionals while expanding the organization's capacity to analyze and communicate complex regulatory developments.

Why IERG?

IERG is a member driven organization, designed for companies with environmental permitting obligations seeking clarity, insight, and a stronger voice in regulatory and legislative processes. IERG represents its members before the IEPA, Pollution Control Board, other state agencies, in legislative affairs, the Governor's office, and more. We provide real-time insight into regulatory and legislative developments impacting Illinois industry.

Value Proposition

IERG provides Illinois businesses with timely regulatory intelligence, direct agency engagement opportunities, and coordinated advocacy on environmental issues. Our team is part of your team!