Section 244.102 Responsibility of the Agency

The Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Director) or his designated representative has sole authority for the declaration of episode stages under these rules. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) has primary responsibility for the conduct of air pollution episode operations including but not limited to air contaminant monitoring, source surveillance and enforcement activities during air pollution episodes which affect any portion of the State of Illinois. The Agency shall notify any local agency assigned a significant episode control role in the Illinois Air Pollution Implementation Plan prior to the initiation, alteration or termination of any episode stage or control strategy in the jurisdictional area of any such local agency.

Section 244.103 Determination of Required Actions

To the maximum degree practicable, emission control actions taken pursuant to these rules shall be consistent with the extent of any air pollution alert or emergency.

a) When the existence of any episode stage is caused by one or more specific emission sources, the Agency shall require emission control action steps applicable only to such source or sources to be taken.

b) When the existence of any episode stage is caused by one or more specific air contaminants, action shall be taken to reduce the concentration of such contaminant or contaminants.

c) When motor vehicle emission control actions are required, the Agency shall promptly declare the applicable episode stage and phase actions so as to allow reasonable notice and preparation for effective vehicle control actions.

Section 244.104 Determination of Atmospheric Conditions

When determining expected atmospheric conditions, the Agency shall consider all available meteorological information, including but not limited to official National Weather Service observations, analyses, forecasts and advisories, as well as meteorological data and reports from other sources. Atmospheric conditions shall include but not be limited to stagnation areas, weather fronts, pressure systems, inversions, precipitation and wind patterns and variations in solar insolation, temperature and atmospheric stability.

Section 244.105 Determination of Expected Contaminant Emissions

When determining expected contaminant emissions, the Agency shall consider all available emission information including but not limited to emission inventories for stationary sources, pertinent emissions summaries, motor vehicle traffic patterns, and known or estimated seasonal, daily or hourly variations in emission rates or traffic patterns.

Section 244.106 Monitoring

a) Monitoring stations used to determine advisory, watch, alert or emergency levels shall be located according to Federal guidelines for establishment of air quality surveillance networks and shall use measurement methods or equivalent methods as officially authorized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

b) Whenever any monitoring station registers air contaminant concentrations in excess of watch or alert levels, proper operation of the sampling equipment at such stations shall be verified by the Agency or local agency cooperating with the Agency before the concentrations are used to declare any advisory, watch, alert or emergency stage.

Section 244.107 Determination of Areas Affected

a) An advisory or watch shall be declared for the entire Illinois portion of any Air Quality Control Region if any part of such region meets the advisory or watch criteria. When atmospheric conditions and contaminant emissions in a region are such as to cause the advisory or watch criteria to be met in another region, an advisory or watch shall be declared for both regions.

b) An alert or emergency shall be declared for only those portions of an advisory or watch area which meet the applicable criteria of Subpart D or cause such criteria to be met elsewhere. When such criteria have been met, sectors of the advisory or watch area requiring alert or emergency actions shall be defined depending upon expected atmospheric conditions, contaminant emissions and dispersion analyses. Alerts or emergencies shall then be declared for one or more of these sectors.

Section 244.108 Failure to Comply with Episode Requirements

Failure to comply with an approved episode action plan, required actions listed in Appendix D or the reasonable orders of the Director or his designated representative during any alert or emergency shall expose any person to the penalty provisions of the Environmental Protection Act (Ill. Rev. Stat. 1981, ch. 111 1/2, pars. 1001 et seq.) (Act). In all cases, the reasonable orders of the Director or his designated representative shall take precedence over episode action plans or required actions listed in Appendix D provided, however, that such orders shall not exceed that which is authorized by this Part or by the Act.