**Section 120.570 Official Notice**

Official notice may be taken of any material fact not appearing in evidence in the record if the Circuit Courts of this State could take judicial notice of the fact. In addition, notice may be taken of generally recognized technical or scientific facts within the Department's specialized knowledge. Parties shall be notified either before or during the hearing or by reference in preliminary reports or otherwise of the material noticed, including any staff memoranda or data, and they shall be afforded an opportunity to contest the facts noticed. The Department's expertise, technical competence and specialized knowledge may be utilized in the evaluation of the evidence.