



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

DEC 22 2017

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Kevin Wagner
Sterigenics US LLC
7775 Quincy Street
Willowbrook, Illinois 60521

RECEIVED
STATE OF ILLINOIS

DEC 28 2017

Environmental Protection Agency
BUREAU OF AIR

Dear Mr. Wagner:

I am writing to you about Sterigenics' use and air emissions of ethylene oxide (EtO). EtO is a hazardous air pollutant under the Clean Air Act. In December 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency updated EtO from a "probable human carcinogen" to a "human carcinogen," while increasing its lifetime inhalation cancer risk estimate about 60 fold¹. This means that EPA now believes EtO is considerably more potent for inducing cancer in humans than previously thought.

According to your 2014 Toxic Release Inventory submission and Illinois' National Emission Inventory submission, Sterigenics emits 2.78 tons per year of EtO. Based on preliminary modeling of Sterigenics' EtO emissions, EPA has calculated a cancer risk of approximately 1,000 in a million at the nearest residence, exceeding our typical upper limit of cancer risk acceptability. EPA would like to provide Sterigenics with the opportunity to review our modeling and to suggest improvements for accuracy.

EPA commends the environmental commitment apparent in Sterigenics' website statement "While our reach is global, our commitment to customers, employees and the communities in which we operate remains local." We would like to meet with Sterigenics, tour your facility, if possible, to help us better understand your process, and work with you on a voluntary basis to reduce potential risks to the community. Margaret Sieffert, of my staff, will be contacting you by January 17, 2018 to share more information about the modeling results and to arrange a meeting. Feel free to contact her prior to that at 312-353-1151, or sieffert.margaret@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Edward Nam
Director
Air and Radiation Division

¹ https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/iris2/chemicalLanding.cfm?substance_nmbr=1025

cc: Julie Armitage, Illinois EPA