

Resolution

CB-R-0875-18

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE OPERATION OF THE STERIGENICS WILLOWBROOK FACILITY

WHEREAS, DuPage County Chairman Dan Cronin, the County Board, and the DuPage County Health Department have been immersed in the matter regarding the safe operation of the Sterigenics Willowbrook Facility since information came to light in late August regarding emissions of the chemical ethylene oxide into the air; and

WHEREAS, Chairman Cronin and District 3 Board Members joined local mayors and called on the company to cease operations, citing new research from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency indicating that ethylene oxide is far more dangerous to the public than previously known; and

WHEREAS, On behalf of the County, Chairman Cronin joined Senator John Curran in a request to the Illinois Attorney General and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to take immediate legal action revoking the operating permit for Sterigenics until further health and environmental studies on the safety of the air near the facility can be completed; and

WHEREAS, The DuPage County Board is in support Senate Bill 3630 which would reopen Sterigenics' current air permit for an additional public comment period and hearing process at the IEPA; require that if a facility, at any time, is emitting ethylene oxide at a level higher than the standards set forth by specified provisions of the federal Clean Air Act or by the IEPA under specified provisions of the Environmental Protection Act, the facility shall immediately cease operations until sufficient changes are made to reduce the level of such emissions; provide new notification protocols that will alert surrounding property owners of an air emission leak; and allow the IEPA to consider the results of the 90-day public hearing process when evaluating the facility's future renewal phase if the facility stays open (in 2020).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the DuPage County Board again calls on the Sterigenics Willowbrook Facility to immediately cease operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DuPage County Board requests that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency revoke Sterigenics' operating permit until guarantees can be made that our air is safe; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DuPage County Board asks the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and all other appropriate agencies to ban the use of ethylene oxide at the Sterigenics Willowbrook Facility until research deems its use safe in conjunction with specific safety protocols.

Enacted and approved this 11th day of September, 2018 at Wheaton, Illinois.

DANIEL J. CRONIN, CHAIRMAN
DU PAGE COUNTY BOARD

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Attest: _____
PAUL HINDS, COUNTY CLERK