



**DUPAGE
COUNTY**

Daniel J. Cronin
County Board Chairman

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September 25, 2018

Mr. William Wehrum
Assistant Administrator, Air and Radiation Division
United States Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Wehrum,

As you know, there are many questions and significant anxiety raised in DuPage County, Illinois about the dangers of ethylene oxide (EtO) emissions from the Sterigenics facility in the Village of Willowbrook. Based on available information, I respectfully request that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency conduct ambient air testing to determine whether the air is safe for DuPage County residents to breathe. I understand that stack testing from the facility was completed September 20th and 21st and required computations are being completed for submittal to the Illinois E.P.A. for their review. However, I believe ambient air testing provides significant data that more fully evaluates the day-to-day health based risks to residents of DuPage County.

I also respectfully request a more robust line of communication from the Environmental Protection Agency to local authorities and residents. The July 26, 2018 ATSDR report determined that 19,271 people live within 1 mile of the facility and also within the one mile radius are four schools and one daycare facility. Families and business owners are deeply concerned about the potential health risks from simply breathing the air. I believe it is incumbent on federal and state officials charged with maintaining safe air quality to respond to these questions and concerns. Unless there is data and information readily available, concerns become heightened and it is easy for misinformation to be interpreted as truth.

I have been immersed in this issue since late August, along with two state legislators and several of our DuPage County Board members. On September 11, 2018 the Board adopted a resolution calling on Sterigenics to cease operations, and Board members requested the state E.P.A revoke Sterigenics' operating permit until guarantees can be made that the air is safe. The Board also demanded that the Illinois E.P.A and all other appropriate agencies prohibit the use of ethylene oxide at the Sterigenics Willowbrook facility until evidence-based research deems its use safe at this heavily urban location. Additionally, we have been working with our state Attorney General to investigate the emissions from Sterigenics. In a letter to the Illinois E.P.A, Attorney General Lisa Madigan stated the requirements for controlling EtO emissions contained in the Sterigenics permit are "alarmingly inadequate and not protective of the community around the facility." The Attorney General requested that the Illinois E.P.A. provide a timetable for long-term air monitoring at the facility to measure ambient air levels of EtO and secondly, that the U.S. E.P.A immediately provide relevant information to the public to assist the community in understanding the current risks posed

by the monitored levels of EtO near the facility, including fact sheets and Frequently Asked Questions on its website.

Please be assured that I will continue working with local, state and federal leaders to do everything possible to keep the public informed and to protect the safety of our residents living, working and attending school near the Sterigenics facility.

Thank you for meeting with me and your response and prompt action.

Best,

Daniel J. Cronin
Chairman
DuPage County Board

