



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

AUG 01 2019

The Honorable Sean Casten
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Casten:

Thank you for your May 15, 2019 and June 21, 2019 letters to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding ethylene oxide (EtO). We share your concerns about the risks that EtO can present.

As we have communicated previously, Region 5 is coordinating with the states to address significant EtO emissions sources. This approach, which is used across the country, allows state agencies to effectively and expeditiously manage environmental issues in their states.

EPA is leading one part of the effort to address EtO emissions. Specifically, EPA is reviewing two Clean Air Act regulations for facilities that emit EtO: the rule for the Miscellaneous Organic Chemical Manufacturing source category and the rule for commercial sterilizers. We anticipate proposing updates to both of these rules soon.

States are leading the other part of this effort—assessing and reducing risk from individual EtO emissions sources on a timeline faster than EPA's national rulemaking can achieve. Our states, with Region 5's support, are coordinating with facilities to gather additional information and secure significant emission reductions as quickly as possible.

Upon request, EPA provides technical assistance to state efforts. These efforts can include inspections and enforcement, and Region 5 recently participated in two state inspections of EtO sources. In Lake County specifically, we continue to assist Illinois EPA as it oversees actions by Medline and Vantage to dramatically reduce their EtO emissions. Examples of Region 5's technical assistance include evaluation of control scenarios, air dispersion modeling to provide monitor siting recommendations, review of stack test protocols and communications support.

Region 5 will continue to work closely with Illinois and our other states to aggressively reduce risks from EtO. Again, thank you for your letters. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Ronna Beckmann, Region 5 Congressional Liaison, at (312) 886-3000.

Sincerely,

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Cathy Stepp
Regional Administrator



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The Honorable Lauren Underwood
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Underwood:

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The Honorable Bradley S. Schneider
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Schneider:

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The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Duckworth:

Thank you for your May 15, 2019 and June 21, 2019 letters to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding ethylene oxide (EtO). We share your concerns about the risks that EtO can present.

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The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

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The Honorable Bill Foster
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Foster:

Thank you for your May 15, 2019 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding inspections at Region 5 facilities that use ethylene oxide (EtO). We share your concerns about the risks that EtO can present.

As we have communicated previously, Region 5 is coordinating with the states to address significant EtO emissions sources. This approach, which is used across the country, allows state agencies to effectively and expeditiously manage environmental issues in their states.

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The Honorable Daniel W. Lipinski
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lipinski:

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