



Comment Period Now Open for Proposed Ethylene Oxide Protection Measures

June 2023 Fact Sheet

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is reaching out to residents surrounding commercial sterilizers that release high levels of the chemical ethylene oxide (EtO) into the air, including American Contract Systems, Inc. located at 7802 East Telecon Pkwy in Temple Terrace, FL 33637.

EtO is a colorless, odorless gas that is primarily used for sterilization purposes. The EPA has regulated EtO emissions for 30 years, however in 2016, new scientific information revealed that EtO is more toxic than previously understood. This prompted the EPA to conduct nationwide analyses and intensive data collection, which have revealed that certain communities near commercial sterilizers could have elevated cancer risks due to lifetime exposures to EtO.

Inhalation of EtO at elevated levels *over a lifetime* can increase a person's risk of getting cancer. However, single-day exposures to the concentrations found in residential communities normally do not pose an immediate threat to an individual's health. If you have health-related concerns, please contact your personal physician or local health department.

The EPA has determined that Temple Terrace neighborhoods in the vicinity of American Contract Systems may have an elevated lifetime cancer risk. The risk gradually increases as you get closer to the American Contract Systems facility (see Figure 1 on page 2).

The EPA is sharing this information because communities have a right to know about emissions that could affect their health and well-being. The EPA will host virtual community meetings on **June 13, 2023**, to provide residents and workers an opportunity to learn more about EtO and how to submit comments on the recently proposed rule and decision. The community can participate via Zoom. Please follow the instructions in the blue box above to register for the meeting. A recording of the meeting will be available at www.epa.gov/fl/temple-terrace-fl-american-contract-systems.

Virtual Public Meetings

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

10:00 a.m. – noon

Call-in No: (646) 828-7666

Webinar ID: 160 061 5946

Register for the virtual meeting here:

<https://bit.ly/3ONpMrk>

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Call-in No: (646) 828-7666

Webinar ID: 161 978 1541

Register for the virtual meeting here:

<https://bit.ly/43vf8tm>

The EPA's Proposed Ethylene Oxide Protection Measures

In April 2023, EPA issued proposals that are expected to reduce risks in communities and for workers. The EPA has proposed a new set of protection measures to limit EtO emissions from commercial sterilizers and is seeking input from the public. In the interim, the Agency is working with American Contract Systems and other commercial sterilizers across the country to find ways they can voluntarily implement early emission controls to reduce risk:

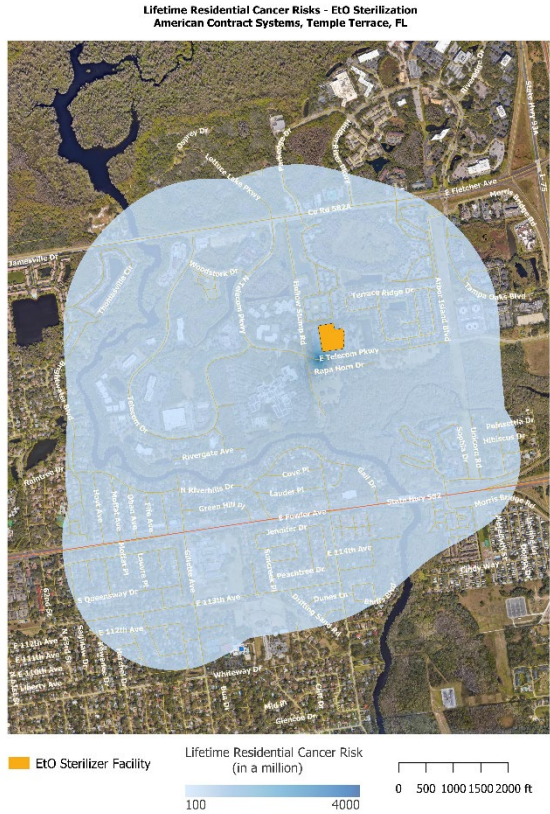


Figure 1 - EtO Gradient Map for Temple Terrace, FL

Please visit www.epa.gov/eto for additional information, including a link to view EPA's May 1, 2023, National Public Webinar, information about individual commercial sterilizers, and health risks for residents and workers.

Esta información se puede encontrar en español en www.epa.gov/fl/temple-terrace-fl-american-contract-systems. If you need interpretation services, please request it when you register for the meeting.

Contact Information:

If you or someone you know would like to be added to EPA's distribution list to receive future updates, please contact Region4EtO@epa.gov or 1-800-241-1754.