



### Information Update Regarding Sterigenics

The Village of Western Springs would like to provide the following information, relating to the Sterigenics facilities in Willowbrook:

- The ILEPA has created a Sterigenics webpage on their website:  
<https://www.epa.gov/il/sterigenics-willowbrook-facility>
- Additional updates on this situation can be found on the Village of Willowbrook website: <http://www.willowbrookil.org/index.aspx?NID=302>
- The ILEPA has referred an enforcement action to the Illinois Attorney General's office, to cease operations at Sterigenics until a full review can be completed.
- In early September, Village President Alice Gallagher sent a letter to Sterigenics expressing concern over the effects of ethylene oxide (EtO).
- In early October, Village President Alice Gallagher sent a letter to the ILEPA, requesting that representatives from Western Springs are invited to all meetings about Sterigenics, and that the Village be included in ambient air testing, and the results shared.
- The Village of Western Springs is reaching out to 'Stop Sterigenics' – an advocacy group committed to ending EtO emissions – for input on ways to proactively address this regional concern.
- Village President Alice Gallagher will provide an informational update on these issues to the Board of Trustees during their regular meeting.

VILLAGE *of* WESTERN SPRINGS



740 HILLGROVE AVENUE | WESTERN SPRINGS, IL 60558-1478 | www.wsprings.com

September 5, 2018

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PRESIDENT

Alice Gallagher

TRUSTEES

Sheila Hansen

Edward Tymick

Berry Allen

Heidi Rudolph

William Siffermann

James Tyrrell

CLERK

Bridget Fitzgerald

MANAGER

Ingrid Velkme

DIRECTORS

Tracy Alden

Grace Turi

Pat Schramm

Martin Scott

Matthew Supert

Patrick Kenny

Brian Budds

Ellen Baer

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Ms. Kathleen Hoffman  
VP, Global Environmental Health & Safety  
Sterigenics International, Inc.  
2015 Spring Road, Suite 650  
Oakbrook, IL 60523  
khoffman@sterigenics.com

Dear Ms. Hoffman:

I am writing to express my concern over recent reports of toxic emissions from the Sterigenics International facility in Willowbrook. According to information widely circulated by the media and others, Sterigenics uses ethylene oxide to sterilize medical equipment, and this process emits a gas that could pose a public health risk. Numerous officials are urging you to cease operations at your facility until proper safeguards have been put in place – including a full evaluation by the EPA, and follow-up air quality testing.

Given the well-documented elevated risks that occur due to ethylene oxide emissions - ranging from eye and skin irritation, to much more serious risks such as leukemia and various forms of cancer - concerns for public safety are warranted. It is imperative that Sterigenics act in the interest of the wider community by taking all steps necessary to protect the public. Good corporate citizenship requires a commitment to surrounding communities as key stakeholders, particularly when the impact of operations could have negative consequences on public health.

Sincerely,

Alice F. Gallagher  
Village President  
Village of Western Springs

cc: Board of Trustees, Village of Western Springs  
Frank Trilla, Mayor, Village of Willowbrook

POLICE Tel 708.246.8540 Fax 708.246.3609 | FIRE Tel 708.246.1182 Fax 708.246.4871

VILLAGE SERVICES Tel 708.246.1800 Fax 708.246.0284 | RECREATION Tel 708.246.9070 Fax 708.246.1309

September 10, 2018

Village President Gallagher:

Thank you for your September 5, 2018 letter. As good corporate citizens, we take this matter seriously and need to reiterate the fact that **our Sterigenics Willowbrook facility achieves and exceeds all compliance requirements set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and Illinois EPA (ILEPA) for air emissions.** Both agencies are fully aware of our strong compliance track-record and have approved the permits at our operations.

We have always been committed to ensuring that the ethylene oxide (“EO”) used to sterilize life-saving medical products at our Sterigenics Willowbrook facility does not present a health threat to the community by operating well within permitted levels. Our air quality control equipment is state of the art and the recent **voluntary equipment upgrade** that reduces our emissions 90% further demonstrates our continuing commitment to safety. We understand it is important to confirm the effectiveness of our controls after this upgrade.

To this end, we plan to test and validate the upgrade of our control system as soon as possible. We are working with a third-party to administer the testing and we will ensure you are advised of the results in order to facilitate transparency. We also recognize the need to perform testing in a verifiable way and so we are coordinating with both ILEPA and USEPA to facilitate their participation in this third-party testing.

Another critical aspect that we must recognize is the real world need for medical device providers to have a reliable sterilization partner to meet the needs of patients for safe healthcare and infection prevention. As you may be aware, our Willowbrook facility sterilizes products that have a broad impact on healthcare, including 1,500 surgical procedure kits, 11,000 radiological syringes and 16,000 vascular catheters each day. These products support **thousands of necessary healthcare procedures every day**, in many cases without meaningful volumes of products in inventory should an outage in sterilization occur. Further, at this time **the only practical FDA-approved method** for delivering this solution for many medical products is EO sterilization. Any disruption of this process could result in unacceptable and life-threatening delays of necessary surgical procedures as the tools and devices necessary to accomplish these procedures would not be available.

Again, we appreciate your attention to this issue and remain committed to providing the essential service of sterilizing medical tools, devices and products in a way that does not present a risk to the community or Sterigenics personnel.



October 8, 2018

Dr. Edward K. Nam, Ph.D.  
Director, Air and Radiation Division  
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region V  
77 W. Jackson Blvd, MS A-18J  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

PRESIDENT

Alice Gallagher

**Re: Sterigenics International, Inc. in Willowbrook, IL**

TRUSTEES

Sheila Hansen

Edward Tymick

Berry Allen

Heidi Rudolph

William Siffermann

James Tyrrell

Dr. Nam,

I am writing after becoming aware of a recent meeting between elected and appointed officials on September 28, 2018 at the EPA Region V office, regarding ethylene oxide (EtO) emissions at Sterigenics – that did not include an invitation to representatives from Western Springs. Located less than 5 miles from the Sterigenics facilities, Western Springs is clearly impacted by the emission of EtO, as evidenced by the 2014 National Air Toxins Assessment. It is extremely important that our Village have a seat at the table at any discussions between federal, state and local government agencies involved in this investigation.

CLERK

Bridget Fitzgerald

Therefore we are requesting that the Village of Western Springs be included in:

- Any formal statements from the EPA regarding the status of the investigation into the presence of EtO in the vicinity;
- Any meetings that take place after an analysis of the stack test results are completed at the Sterigenics facilities; and
- All future regional ambient air testing of EtO.

MANAGER

Ingrid Velkme

These commitments will ensure that our Village and its residents remain informed about the status of the EPA's investigation, and that we have a voice in the decision-making process. Please contact Village Manager Ingrid Velkme at 708-246-1800, extension 125, or at [ivelkme@wsprings.com](mailto:ivelkme@wsprings.com) with any further information or requests.

DIRECTORS

Tracy Alden

Grace Turi

Pat Schramm

Martin Scott

Matthew Supert

Patrick Kenny

Brian Budds

Ellen Baer

Sincerely,

Alice F. Gallagher  
Village President

cc: Village of Western Springs Trustees  
Ingrid Velkme, Village Manager, Village of Western Springs  
Frank Trilla, Mayor, Village of Willowbrook

Thomas Livingston, President, Village of La Grange  
Jim Discipio, President, Village of La Grange Park  
Kathleen Weaver, Mayor, City of Darien  
Mickey Straub, Mayor, Village of Burr Ridge  
Thomas Cauley, President, Village of Hinsdale  
Tom Hinshaw, President, Village of Indian Head Park  
Ron Gunter, President, Village of Westmont