

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 8, 2019

Michael B. Petras, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer
Sotera Health
9100 South Hills Blvd, Suite 300
Broadview Heights, OH 44147

Phil MacNabb
President
Sterigenics
2015 Spring Road, Suite 650
Oak Brook, IL 60523

Dear Mr. Michael Petras and Mr. Phil MacNabb:

According to an article released by CBS Chicago on February 3, 2019, Sterigenics directed employees to take extraordinary measures to conduct and cover-up releases of ethylene oxide (EtO) directly into the atmosphere and to dump harmful ethylene glycol into drains that lead to the public sewer system. These disturbing allegations come less than a week after several members the Illinois Congressional Delegation met with Sterigenics and Sotera Health leadership, where assurances were provided that the facility follows established protocols to ensure employee and residential safety.

CBS Chicago spoke with ex-employees of Sterigenics who describe situations where carcinogenic EtO was released directly into the air without being run through pollution control equipment, Sterigenics neglected to enforce proper employee safety precautions, and employees were directed to dump hazardous ethylene glycol into drainage facilities instead of its proper collection process. Additionally, the article describes allegations of the company manipulating alarm systems that are used to alert employees when EtO concentrations were above the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard of one part per million—an allegation that directly contradicts statements made by Sterigenics leadership to several members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation about personal employee safety within the facility.

These allegations—among others—are particularly concerning. We request answers to the following questions:

1. Do you believe there is ever a situation in which it would be appropriate to release to release biologically significant amounts of EtO directly into the atmosphere without going through the proper pollution control equipment? If yes, please explain. Please provide us with copies of all documents that you rely on to support this position.

2. Do you believe there is ever a situation in which it would be appropriate to dump ethylene glycol into drainage facilities instead of its proper collection process? If yes, please explain. Please provide us with copies of all documents you rely on to support this position.
3. Do you maintain a record of monitor alarm occurrences from EtO at the facility, and does an EtO alarm alert have to be reported to federal or state authorities? How many times have these monitors been triggered since 1993? If so please, provide us with copies of these records from 1993 to present day.
 - a. Does an EtO alarm alert have to be reported to federal or state authorities? If so, please provide us with copies of all documents submitted in connection with those reports from 1993 to present day.
 - b. How many times have these monitors been triggered since 1993? Please provide us with a complete list of the exact dates on which the monitors were triggered
4. What is the protocol for employees and facility management when an EtO alarm sounds, whether it be from a personal exposure alarm or a facility-wide alarm? Please provide us with copies of all documents memorializing or interpreting this protocol.
5. Please provide us with a detailed description of past incidents at the Sterigenics Willowbrook facility where Sterigenics bypassed pollution control equipment and released EtO directly into the atmosphere;
6. Please provide us with a detailed explanation on why the alleged actions referenced above in (5) are false or why such actions occurred but were appropriate; and
7. Please provide us with all documents relating to incidents involving the direct release of EtO into the atmosphere at the Sterigenics Willowbrook facility.

It is unacceptable that the community of Willowbrook and employees of Sterigenics live in constant fear of developing cancer, while a medical sterilization facility—a company that proudly presents the trademark of “Safeguarding Global Health”™—is responsible for this local health crisis.

We request a response to this serious matter as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



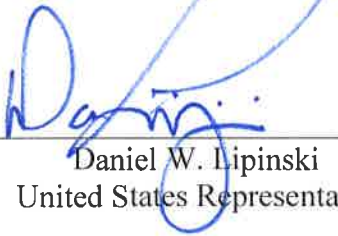
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Sean Casten
United States Representative



Bill Foster
United States Representative



Daniel W. Lipinski
United States Representative



Bradley S. Schneider
United States Representative