

Sterigenics' Statement Upon Request to Dave Savini, CBS Chicago

February 1, 2019

We want to set the record straight with regard to the allegations raised in your email to Sterigenics dated January 30 and your subsequent conversation with Kristin Gibbs on January 31, which appear to arise from materials submitted in the litigation by attorneys representing individuals who have sued us. In light of the ongoing litigation involving Sterigenics, we have provided a statement with our responses below.

The claims you cite are misleading and untrue and represent a clear distortion of the facts regarding Sterigenics' operations. We will vigorously defend ourselves against these allegations in court.

The residents of Willowbrook have been subjected to months of misinformation regarding Sterigenics and its safe use of ethylene oxide (EO) in the sterilization of vital medical products – including the reliance on unrealistic risk standards and flawed air sampling by the EPA.

Sterigenics Willowbrook operates in compliance with regulations and has a proven record of operating safely since it acquired the facility in 1999, including voluntary actions to consistently improve operations to outperform what the regulations require.

EO is the only method approved by the Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) to sterilize millions of critical medical devices. Without sterilization of these devices, individuals needing medical care would face life-threatening infection. By complying with and going above and beyond what the regulations require, the Sterigenics Willowbrook facility safely uses EO and provides a vital service to patients in Illinois and across the country.

In terms of the specific topics raised in your email and subsequent conversation, we offer the following responses:

- “allegations of dumping waste into the sewer system at the Willowbrook locations”
 - These allegations date back more than twenty years ago, and mischaracterize an authorized process of discharging certain waste materials into the sanitary sewer for treatment at municipal waste treatment facilities. This process was authorized by, and disclosed to, the local sanitation district.
 - Notably, these waste materials were not EO – the facility treated EO emissions through its dedicated EO controls at this time. Additionally, these materials were not discharged to municipal water supplies. Furthermore, recent testing of wells in Willowbrook found no evidence of EO in the water, as predicted.
 - Our control equipment produces ethylene glycol as it reduces air emissions. Ethylene glycol is commonly used in automobile antifreeze and to de-ice airplanes. The release of

ethylene glycol into the sanitary sewer for further treatment is similar to what transpires in the de-icing activity that takes place at O'Hare and other airports across the country on any given winter day. The ethylene glycol used likely flows safely into public treatment systems after application to airplanes.

- Under current DuPage County Wastewater rules, the release of ethylene glycol into the public sanitation sewer system continues to be permissible, although Sterigenics no longer uses that method of discharge. Today, ethylene glycol is safely recycled at the Sterigenics facility.
- “ethylene oxide was allowed to be vented through overhead doors and other ways other than through scrubbers.”
 - This is misleading. There was no “venting” of EO to the outside as part of the facility’s emissions controls. The sterilization chambers, which are where EO processing takes place, are connected to the scrubbers for emissions control. After sterilization, product is moved out of the chambers and through the facility. EO levels are monitored throughout these areas.
 - The Willowbrook facility’s state-of-the-art systems safely control and contain EO. Today, less than 1/10th of 1% of the EO used in the sterilization process is released into the atmosphere – exceeding regulatory requirements and representing one of the highest control levels in the country for this industry.
- “allegations that warning monitors for workers were compromised.”
 - We have found no evidence to support this claim. Sterigenics is committed to employee safety, and maintenance on monitoring systems is performed regularly to ensure the monitors function properly.
 - Sterigenics has invested significant resources to upgrade its systems and install state-of-the-art systems that allow the company’s employees to safely monitor, capture and control more than 99.9% of the EO used in the sterilization process – exceeding regulatory requirements.
- “numerous other warehouses in Willowbrook and Burr Ridge used to store product that was off-gassing.”
 - Products are not stored in warehouses for the purpose of off-gassing. Upon removal from the sterilization chambers, products are stored in special, controlled rooms that are under negative pressure, meaning the air flows in and not out. Emissions from these rooms are also routed to emission controls. This is the FDA-approved procedure for ensuring that medical equipment remains sterile for important life-saving medical procedures.



Worker safety, in addition to the safety of the community and patients we serve, is paramount at Sterigenics. Workers follow strict regulatory guidelines regarding the safe handling and usage of EO in the sterilization process and are provided with the necessary safety equipment based on their role and position in the facility. We are proud of our safety record at the Willowbrook facility.

We are committed to ensuring the public has the facts regarding Sterigenics and EO. The claims you have referenced – which are similar to claims made by plaintiffs who have sued Sterigenics – are misleading and untrue distortions of the facts regarding Sterigenics' operations.