

**Community Meeting on
Ethylene Oxide and
Risks in the
Communities of
Kingsbury, Queensbury,
New York
to begin shortly.**



Getting Started: How to participate on Teams - How to participate via phone line

The screenshot displays the Microsoft Teams mobile app interface during a meeting. The top navigation bar includes icons for chat, mute, video, gallery, and a menu. The bottom navigation bar contains icons for device settings, meeting notes, meeting details, gallery, large gallery, together mode, focus, full screen, call me, apply background effects, turn on live captions, start recording, dial pad, and turn off incoming video. The main screen shows a 'Microsoft Teams Meeting Controls' overlay with a 'Leave' button and a 'Full screen' button. The background displays a message: 'Please give us a call if you are having technical difficulties: 212-637-4333 Thank you! EPA'. The EPA logo is visible in the bottom right corner.

to ask question and share comments

to raise hand

to turn on/off video

to un/mute mic

to leave the call

to view full screen

to view live captions

Microsoft Teams Meeting Controls

Please give us a call if you are having technical difficulties:
212-637-4333
Thank you!
EPA

UNITED STATES • ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Ethylene Oxide and Risks in the Communities of Kingsbury and Queensbury, New York



Why we are here tonight

1

Pollution is increasing
health risks in some
American communities.

2

We are working to reduce
this risk.

3

We want to hear from you.



Website:

<https://www.epa.gov/eto>

Email:

eto@epa.gov

What is Ethylene Oxide?

- Gas
- Colorless
- Flammable
- Odorless

*(in concentrations
we find in communities)*

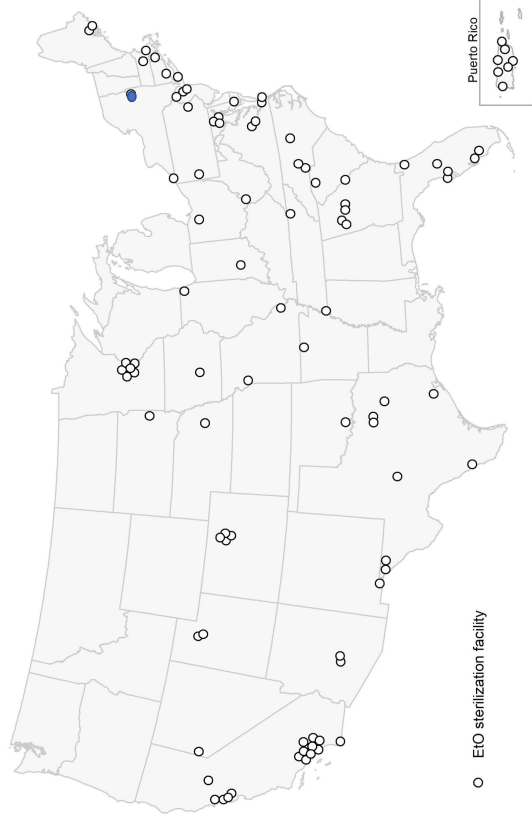


EtO Uses

- Used to Make Other Products
- Sterilizes



National Context for Sterilizers



- Approximately **100** commercial sterilizers in the United States
- More information on all facilities at <https://www.epa.gov/eto>



Recent Steps Taken to Learn about Risk and Reduce It:

- July 2022: Completed analysis showing where, and in which specific communities, risk is highest for people who live nearby.
- Continue to seek more reductions of EtO coming out of facilities.

Previous work:

- 2016: Learned EtO is more dangerous when breathed in than previously known.
- 2018: Initial analysis showed that EtO might be causing elevated risk near certain types of facilities.
- 2020-2022: Collected and verified data and completed analysis to understand more exactly where there is elevated risk and why.

Current knowledge suggests the following risks are not a concern

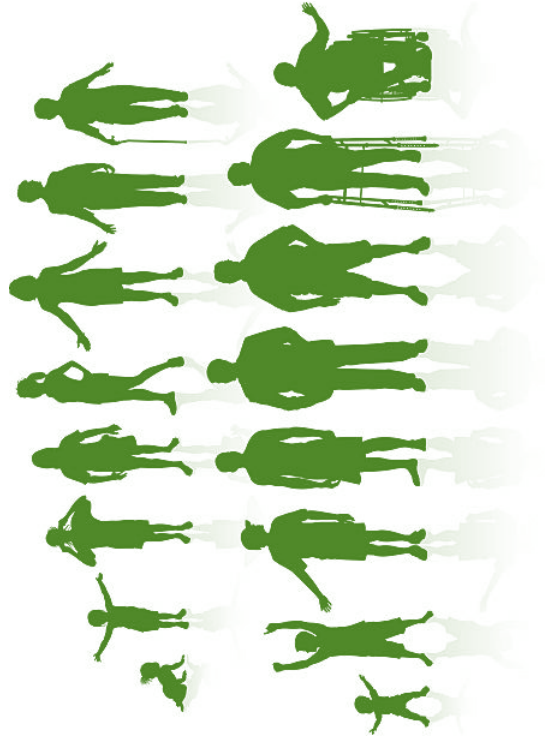
No indication of risk:

- From soil or water
- Acute or emergency health impacts
- From consumer use of products made with or sterilized with EtO



Over your lifetime

Breathing in EtO over
many years may cause
breast cancer and
lymphoid cancer.



Special Considerations about Risk



Workers may be exposed
at higher levels.



Children and babies may
be at higher risk.



This risk assessment and the
rule it supports are focused on
community risk, not worker risk.

Reducing EtO coming
out of the facility is
the best way
to reduce risk.



How EPA Measures Risk

- **Risk** is measured as the number of estimated cancer cases in a total population of 1 million people
- **Lifetime cancer risk** of "1-in-1 million" means that for every 1 million people who are continuously exposed to a certain level of pollution over 70 years, one person may develop cancer.
- **Elevated Risk** is when the estimated cancer cases is greater than or equal to 100 in a total population of 1 million people
(≥ 100 in 1 million; or 1-in-10,000)

Details about this analysis

- EtO Uses
- Facility Processes
- Facility Equipment
- Community Details
- Weather

Analysis

Modeled Risk
Caused by EtO
from a Facility

Location of Sterigenics 84 Park Road Queensbury, New York



Location of Sterigenics 84 Park Road Queensbury, New York

Lifetime Residential Cancer Risks - ETO Sterilization
Sterigenics, Queensbury, NY



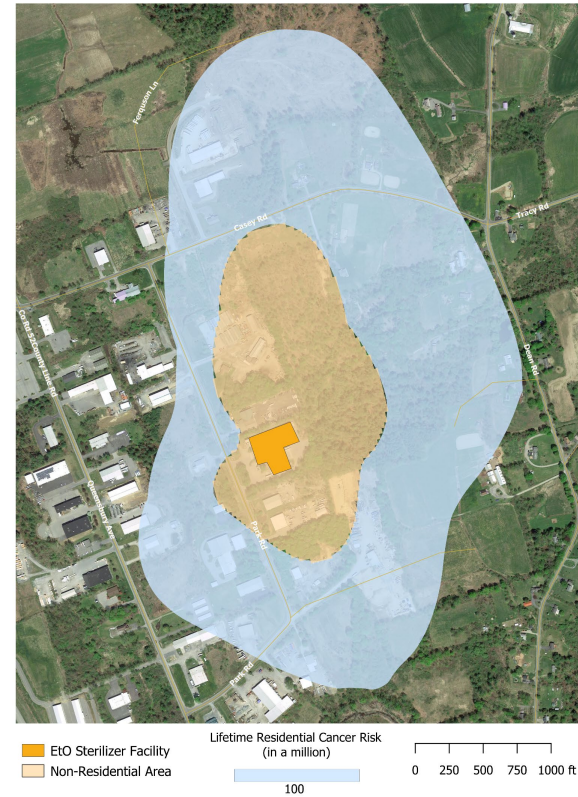
Sterigenics Kingsbury, New York

Lifetime cancer risk - breathe air containing EtO at the level estimated at that location for 24 hours a day, every day for 70 years.

Maximum Risk Level: Around 100/Million, or 1/10,000, which from a regulatory decision-making perspective is the level where we consider the risk unacceptable

This estimated risk is in addition to cancer risk from other causes.

Lifetime Residential Cancer Risks - EtO Sterilization
Sterigenics, Queensbury, NY



Sterigenics Operations

- Started operations in 1994.
- Sterilizes medical devices.
- Used 157.5 tons of EtO in 2021.
- Controls emissions with:
 - A catalytic oxidizer (installed in 1993)
 - A wet scrubber (installed in 1995)
- Ethylene oxide sterilization process is regulated and approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- Subject to 40 CFR Part 63 Subpart O – Ethylene Oxide Emissions Standards for Sterilization Facilities.

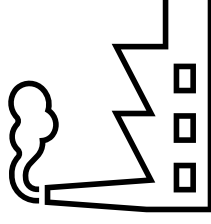
General Sterilization Process

- **Pre-conditioning** – Products are kept at high temperature and humidity.
- **Sterilization** – The sterilization cycle consists of: the injection of EtO, exposure, evacuation, and air washes. The sterilization cycle depends on the type of product and can range from less than a day to a few weeks.
- **Aeration** – Once the sterilization cycle is completed, the product is removed from the sterilization chamber and placed in an aeration room, where any residual EtO within the product is removed.
- **Storage** – Processed storage area where sterilized product is placed until it is shipped back to customers.

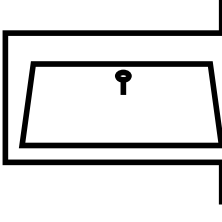
Where EtO Comes from at the Facility

There are two types of EtO emissions from facilities:

Controlled
Emissions



Fugitive
Emissions



In this community, the majority of the risk is being caused by fugitive emissions

Stack vs. Fugitive Emissions

Stack Emissions

- Controlled by the wet scrubber and catalytic oxidizer
- The most recent performance test demonstrated:
 - Sterilization chamber control efficiency greater than 99.99%
 - Aeration room control efficiency greater than 99.9%
 - A 99.6% control efficiency for the back vent.

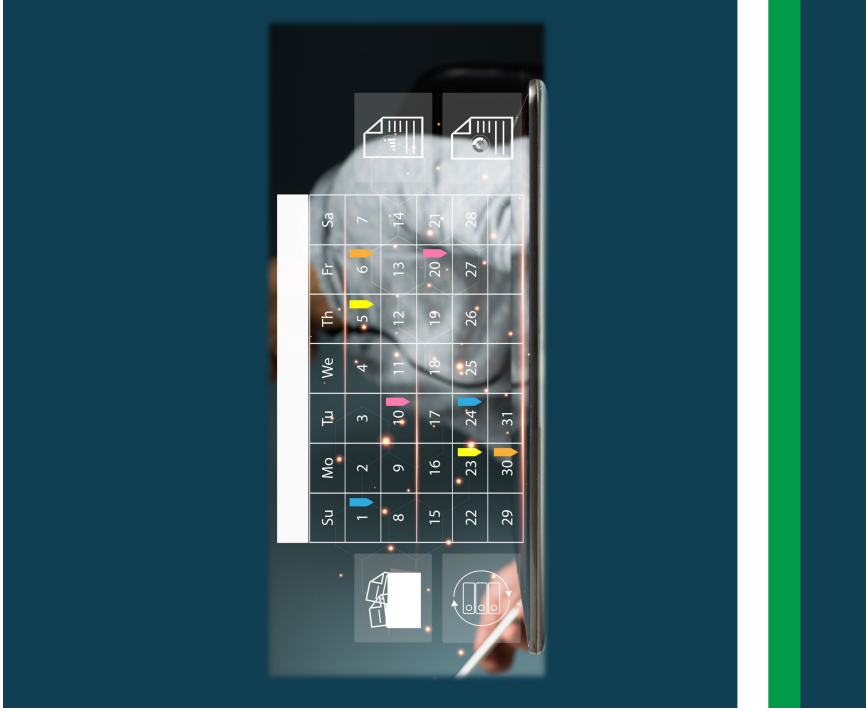
Fugitive Emissions

- Not emitted from the stack
 - E.g. emitted from warehouse
- Sources of fugitives include:
 - Indoor EtO storage containers
 - EtO dispensing pipes
 - Vacuum pumps
 - Pre-aeration handling of sterilized products
 - Post-aeration handling of sterilized products

Work in Progress

- Facility is currently up for a permit renewal, which requires them to perform an air toxic risk analysis
- NYSDEC requires the facility to be below a "10/million" threshold





Timeline

- New regulation proposed in coming months
- 60-day public comment period
- Final rule - end of this year.
- Facilities typically have 3 years to comply <https://www.epa.gov/eto/comment>
- New risk information for workers at facilities and people who work or attend school nearby (“Pesticide Rule”)
- Proposal for EtO-allowed-use in facilities this year
- Typically, several years for pesticide labels to be updated and take effect <https://www.epa.gov/ingredients-used-pesticide-products/ethylene-oxide-eto>

Additional Resources

ATSDR EtO FAQs

Link:

<https://wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/ToxFAQs/ToxFAQsDetails.aspx?faqid=733&toxid=133>

EtO Email Address for CDC:

eto@cdc.gov

Next Steps

- New regulation proposed in the coming months.
- EPA continuing to work with State partners and Sterigenics to reduce EtO emissions from facility.
- Submit questions to EPA via eto@epa.gov or Brian Marmo at Marmo.Brian@epa.gov or 212-637-4352



How to Ask Questions

- Type question in chat
- Raise virtual hand
 - *5, if on phone
 - *6 to unmute/mute



Thank You!

Please do not hesitate to
reach out with any
questions:

Marmo.Brian@epa.gov



Key Points



EPA has learned that EtO is causing health risk in some American communities.

We are working to reduce this risk by:

1. Working across government and industry to reduce EtO coming from sterilization facilities.
2. We are updating air pollution regulations to be more protective of your health.
3. We are sharing these risk results with you, so you have the same information we have.