



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5

77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD

CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

**APR 15 2019**

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF:

Kristina M. Kovarik  
Mayor  
Village of Gurnee  
325 North O'Plaine Road  
Gurnee, Illinois 60031-2636

Dear Ms. Kovarik:

Thank you for your March 1, 2019, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding ethylene oxide (EtO) emissions in Lake County, Illinois.

As we have communicated previously, EPA and the IEPA are coordinating their efforts to respond to significant EtO emissions sources in Lake County. This is the typical approach throughout EPA Region 5 and across the country, where state agencies like IEPA effectively manage environmental issues in their states. In Lake County, EPA and IEPA have identified two facilities where we are working to reduce EtO emissions—Medline in Waukegan and Vantage Specialty Chemicals in Gurnee.

EPA is leading one part of this effort. Specifically, EPA is reviewing and updating Clean Air Act (CAA) regulations for facilities that emit EtO. Several existing rules issued under the CAA Section 112 cover sources associated with EtO emissions, and regulatory processes are already underway for many of these rules. For example, the Agency is currently reviewing its rule for the Miscellaneous Organic Chemical Manufacturing source category and anticipates proposing necessary revisions by mid-2019. At the same time, EPA is reviewing other rules associated with emissions of EtO, including commercial sterilizers, such as Medline. We anticipate proposing necessary revisions for the commercial sterilizer rule in mid-2019 as well and I will be happy to share schedules for other rules as they are determined.

IEPA is leading the other part of this effort in Lake County—assessing and reducing risk from individual EtO emissions sources on a timeline faster than national regulations can achieve. IEPA, with EPA's support, is coordinating with the facilities in Lake County to gather additional information and secure significant emission reductions as quickly as possible.

While neither EPA nor IEPA is conducting ambient monitoring in Lake County, EPA is coordinating with Lake County Health Department on the monitoring they are planning and providing technical assistance. Our agencies are also using a variety of tools, such as air

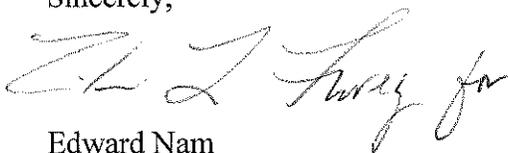
dispersion modeling, to better characterize potential risks near the Lake County facilities. This additional information will help IEPA and EPA evaluate opportunities to reduce EtO emissions and determine whether more immediate emission reduction steps are necessary.

We will continue to work closely with IEPA to address environmental issues in Lake County; this includes working with the State to provide opportunities to keep the community informed. For example, IEPA expects Medline to submit a revised construction permit application. If so, IEPA will hold a public outreach session on the proposed permit conditions, including any required emission controls. EPA is maintaining a website about EtO emissions in Lake County, and will be working with IEPA to ensure coordination: <https://www.epa.gov/il/addressing-ethylene-oxide-emissions-lake-county-illinois>.

We also are committed to keeping the lines of communication open with you and other elected Lake County officials. We will be reaching out to arrange a follow-up to the November 28th meeting shortly.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Ronna Beckman, the Region 5 Congressional Liaison, at (312) 886-3000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edward Nam", written in black ink.

Edward Nam  
Director  
Air and Radiation Division