

January 12, 2023



OEHHA
California Office of Environmental
Health Hazard Assessment

Subject: No Significant Risk Level for Ethylene Oxide: Modification to Proposed Regulation, Addition of One Document to Rulemaking File, and Public Comment Period.

Dear California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment,

I am extremely concerned with the minimum proposed modifications, despite the dangers of Ethylene Oxide. For starters, Ethylene Oxide was classified by EPA as “chemical carcinogen in 2016,” however it continues to be used in our foods, communities, and has contaminated our right to breathe fresh air. Shame on anyone who took an “Oath” to protect Californians from Environmental Health Hazards, but has failed to protect our health. According to consumer notice.org, “(EO) or Ethylene oxide is an environmental pollutant and is toxic to humans.” As this article describes, “EO increases the risk of several types of cancer.” (consumer notice.org, online). A fact, “about 20 billion of medical devices are sterilized with ethylene oxide each year,” (American Chemistry Council). Does anyone in this office care about my health, my family’s health, and neighbors health at all?, I may ask.

Ethylene Oxide must be banned for use as the damage is greater than the benefits (health wise in humans). According to the consumer notice, “ethylene Oxide can cause cancers of the white blood cells in humans...” and animals as well. It is impressive all the side effects that ethylene oxide exposes to each human in our daily lives. The list does compare to symptoms that I have experienced or co-workers have described to myself. Based on this article of Ethylene Oxide side effects include: “Cancer, memory loss, difficult breathing, eye burns, headaches, nausea, reproductive effects, vomiting, and weakness.” (consumer notice.org). When someone from the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard acts ethically to perform job duties as promised by their “Oath of public service.”

It is my humble request to assess the health benefits of ethylene oxide, if any versus the side effects on humans. In your hands, I place my trust that each one of you does what is ethically correct for Californians in regards to Ethylene Oxide.

Thank you for considering my comments,
Elena Magallanes (Concern citizen)

