



## National Tribal Air Association

### **Fact Sheet:**

### **Proposed National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Ethylene Oxide Emissions Standards for Sterilization Facilities Residual Risk and Technology Review**

**Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0178**

### **Background:**

On April 11, 2023, EPA proposed to strengthen emission standards for the 86 commercial sterilizers that are currently operating across the country as well as for new sterilizers. These requirements, if finalized, will reduce the amount of Ethylene Oxide (EtO) that comes out of commercial sterilizers by 80 percent and will reduce risk in nearby communities to levels below the Clean Air Act benchmark for elevated risk.

The proposal requires facilities to install new pollution controls, which have already proven to be effective and achievable based on the experience of some facilities in the industry. If finalized, facilities will have 18 months to comply with these new requirements, install new technologies as needed, and use advanced source monitoring methods to ensure pollution controls are operating effectively. Facilities would be required to report results to EPA twice per year. This 18-month timeline is an accelerated timeline under EPA authority.

These facilities are distributed across the country and are important in providing sterilization of medical equipment. However, because of the toxicity of EtO, additional controls required in this proposal are important to reduce the unacceptable risk to communities around these facilities.

Comments on this rule are due June 27, 2023.