

# COMPANY STATEMENT



**August 16, 2019**

## **BD Statement on Georgia Environmental Protection Division Announcement of Air Monitoring for Ethylene Oxide**

BD welcomes testing exercises that will lead to a better understanding by our communities about our safe use of ethylene oxide, so long as that work is done by accredited companies that use approved methodologies from state and federal regulators. We applaud Georgia EPD for their plan to conduct air monitoring not only near medical sterilization facilities but also in areas away from any known industrial source of ethylene oxide, to establish a baseline comparison. This is important because ethylene oxide is a very common chemical present in our environment. According to the [Georgia Chemical Council](#), ethylene oxide is used to produce many products we use every day, such as certain plastics, household cleaners, safety glass, adhesives, textiles and detergents. Ethylene oxide emissions are produced by plant decay, vehicle exhaust, cooking oils, cigarette smoke and other sources, including the human body.

BD uses best available technology to destroy 99.95% of all ethylene oxide emissions from our stack. This results in trace amounts of emissions. The highest level of ethylene oxide modeled by Georgia EPD in any residential neighborhood surrounding the BD facility is 0.03 micrograms per cubic meter, an amount 10 times lower than the results of Georgia EPD's recent ambient air test that was conducted far away from any known industrial source of ethylene oxide, which recorded 0.3 micrograms per cubic meter.

It will be very important for all parties to consider background levels of ethylene oxide in areas away from any known industrial source when evaluating levels detected in areas near medical sterilization facilities. Any differences in testing methodologies used by different companies should also be taken into account when making comparisons between various air monitoring exercises.

BD is confident in our emissions reduction technology and processes. The BD employees who run the facility in Covington live in this area and take great care to protect themselves, their families and their neighbors. BD would not operate a facility that puts the community at risk.

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