

# Starting Soon:

## ITRC Ethylene Oxide (EtO)

Ethylene Oxide (EtO) Guidance

<https://eto-1.itrcweb.org/>

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Webinar ID: 898 7781 5889#

# Poll Question

**Check  
In!**

## I represent...

- ☐ Industry/ Contractor
- ☐ State
- ☐ Tribal
- ☐ Federal
- ☐ Community
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ Academic
- ☐ Other

# Housekeeping

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# ITRC – Shaping the Future of Regulatory Acceptance

Host Organization



Network - All 50 states, PR, DC

Federal Partners



DOE



DOD



EPA

ITRC Industry Affiliates Program



Academia

Community Stakeholders

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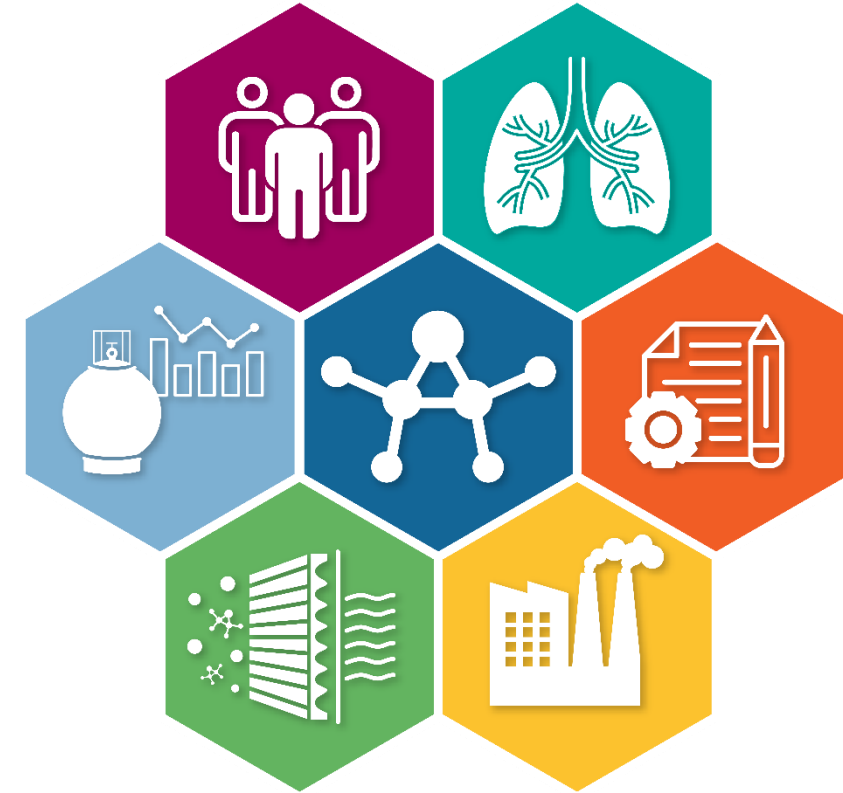


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# EtO – What You Need to Know



Sponsored by: Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council ([www.itrcweb.org/](http://www.itrcweb.org/))

# Meet the ITRC Trainers



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# Training Roadmap

**ETO Training Introduction**

**Sources, Uses, & Exposure Pathways**

**Community & Stakeholder Communications**

**Control Technologies**

**Sampling & Monitoring**

**Regulations**

**Continuous Outreach & Resources**

**Q&A**

# What you will learn

- Characteristics of EtO
- Health Hazards of EtO
- Best practices for sampling and analysis
- Community engagement concepts
- What regulations apply?
- Learn where to get more help

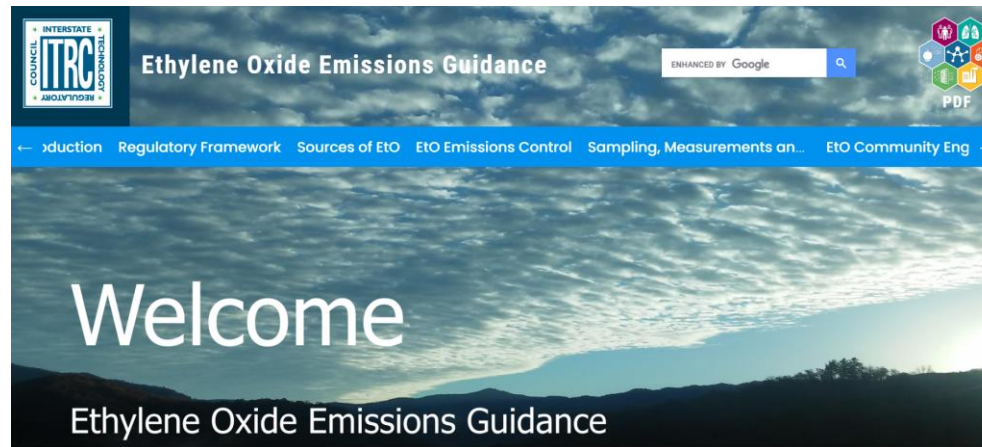


CAUTION!  
Emerging Contaminant –  
Changing Regulatory Landscape



# EtO Guide

- Developed by subject matter experts in the field of EtO
- Includes information on what we know **now**
- Additional resources and links



# Case Study – The Acme Company

## EtO Sterilizer Case Study Mock-up

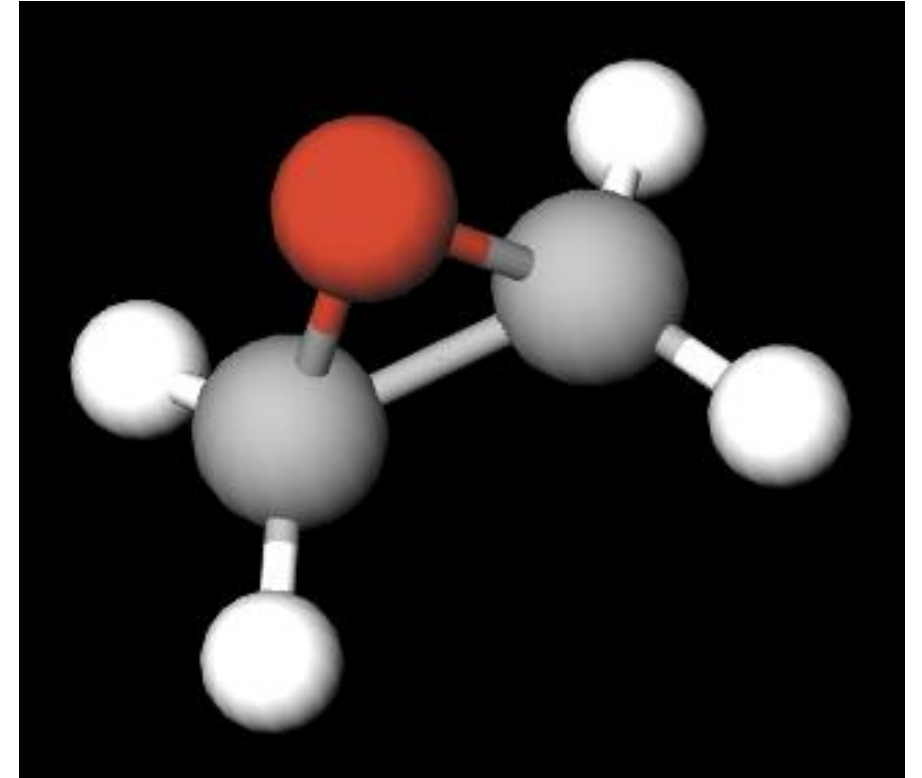


# What is Ethylene Oxide (EtO)

Flammable, colorless, and reactive gas

Primary source industrial

Endogenous sources



# Why EtO?



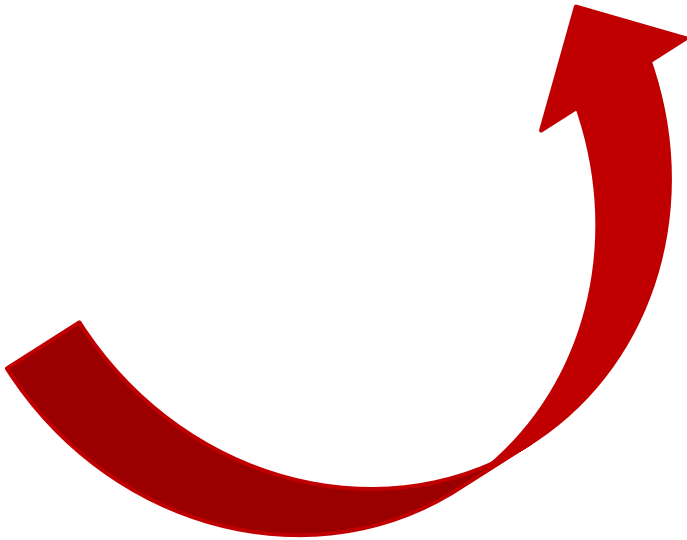
Categorized as a human carcinogen.\*

One of 188 **listed hazardous air pollutants (HAP)** covered under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act (CAA).

In 2016, the USEPA classified EtO as “carcinogenic to humans”

USEPA analyses show that EtO emissions may pose a greater public health concern than previously realized

\* By the World Health Organization (WHO), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and other health agencies.



# Poll Question

**Check  
In!**

## What is your experience with EtO?

- ☐ No experience
- ☐ Some experience
- ☐ Moderate experience
- ☐ Lots of experience

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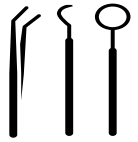
# Production & Uses of Ethylene Oxide



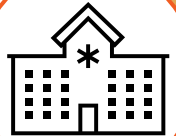
Section 2.2



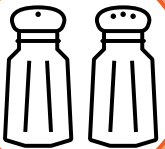
**Chemical intermediate:** Used to make other chemicals, e.g., ethylene glycol (antifreeze, polyester fibers), surfactants (soap)



**Commercial sterilization** of medical devices and heat- and moisture-sensitive equipment (e.g., bandages, disposable syringes, tubing)



**Non-commercial sterilization:** hospital/clinic scale with benchtop sterilization units



**Other uses:** Fumigation of spices, pest control of imported goods (country dependent)



# Poll Question

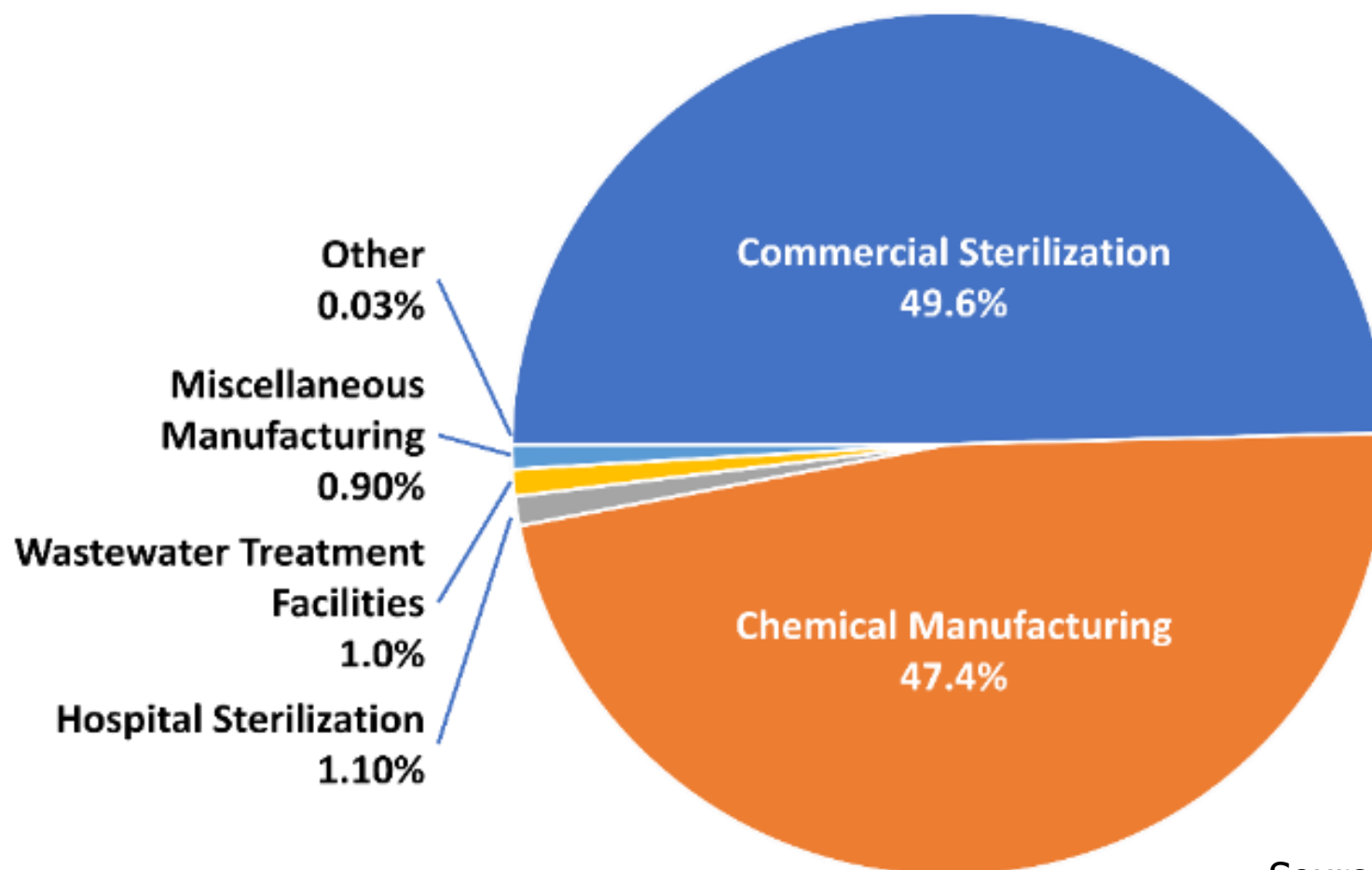
**Check  
In!**

Products that are made from EtO raw material include

- ☐ Carpet backing and furniture cushioning
- ☐ Motor vehicle antifreezes
- ☐ Personal care products
- ☐ All of the above
- ☐ None of the above

# Emissions: Known Sources of EtO to Air

**Sources of Ethylene Oxide Air Emissions**  
**115.7 tons (Year 2019)**



Source: USEPA AirToxScreen 2019

# Known and Potential Sources of Ethylene Oxide



Section 4

1

## ***Known Industry***

Emission of EtO to Ambient Air

Chemical  
Manufacturing

Sterilizers

2

## ***Potential Primary***

Sources of EtO to Ambient Air

Smoking

General  
Combustion  
Byproducts

3

## ***Potential Secondary***

Sources of EtO

Human Body  
Metabolism

Oxidized to EtO

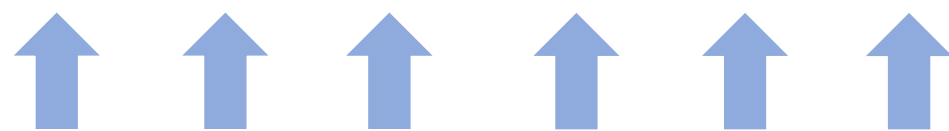
Conversion to  
EtO in Plants &  
Microorganisms

# Releases of Ethylene Oxide into the Environment



Sections 2  
and 4

Atmospheric half-life  
of 2-5 months



***Stack & Fugitive EtO Releases to Air***



***Accidental Spills during Transport***



***Releases to Water***

Rapid Evaporation to Air  
(Half-Life of 1 Hour<sup>^</sup>)

**Ready Biodegradation to EG in Water**  
(Half-Life of < 15 Days<sup>^</sup>)

***Releases to Soil***

Rapid Evaporation to Air<sup>^</sup>

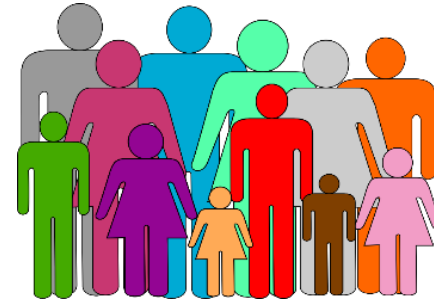
**Rapid Hydrolysis to EG in Soil and Groundwater**  
(Half-Life of 11-12 Days<sup>^</sup>)

# How Can I Be Exposed to EtO?



Sections 2.4  
and 7.1

- Inhalation – the primary route of EtO exposure
- Work-Place
- Individual
- Background

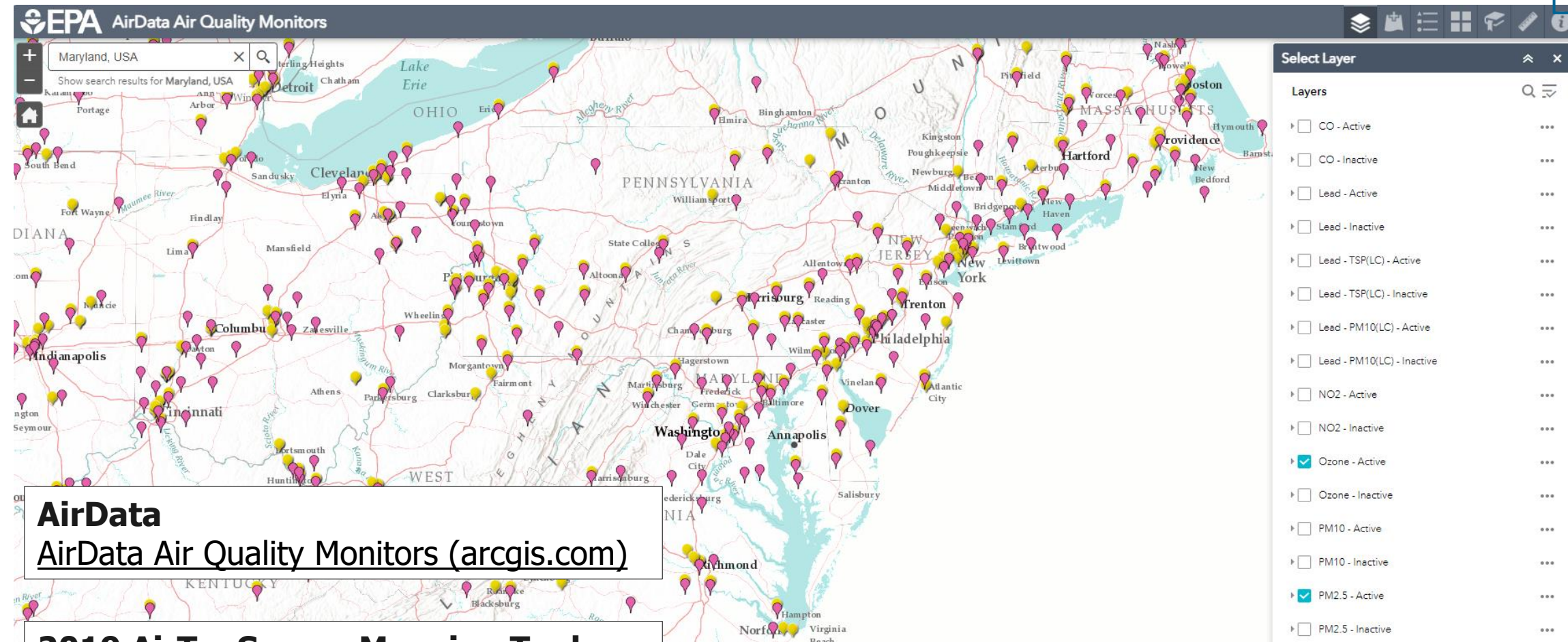




# Tools for Learning About Air Quality



Section 7.2



## AirData

AirData Air Quality Monitors ([arcdgis.com](https://www.epa.gov/airdata))

## 2019 AirToxScreen Mapping Tool

<https://www.epa.gov/AirToxScreen/airtox-screen-mapping-tool>

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**Q&A**

# Who are the Stakeholders?



## Section 7





# Communities and Communication

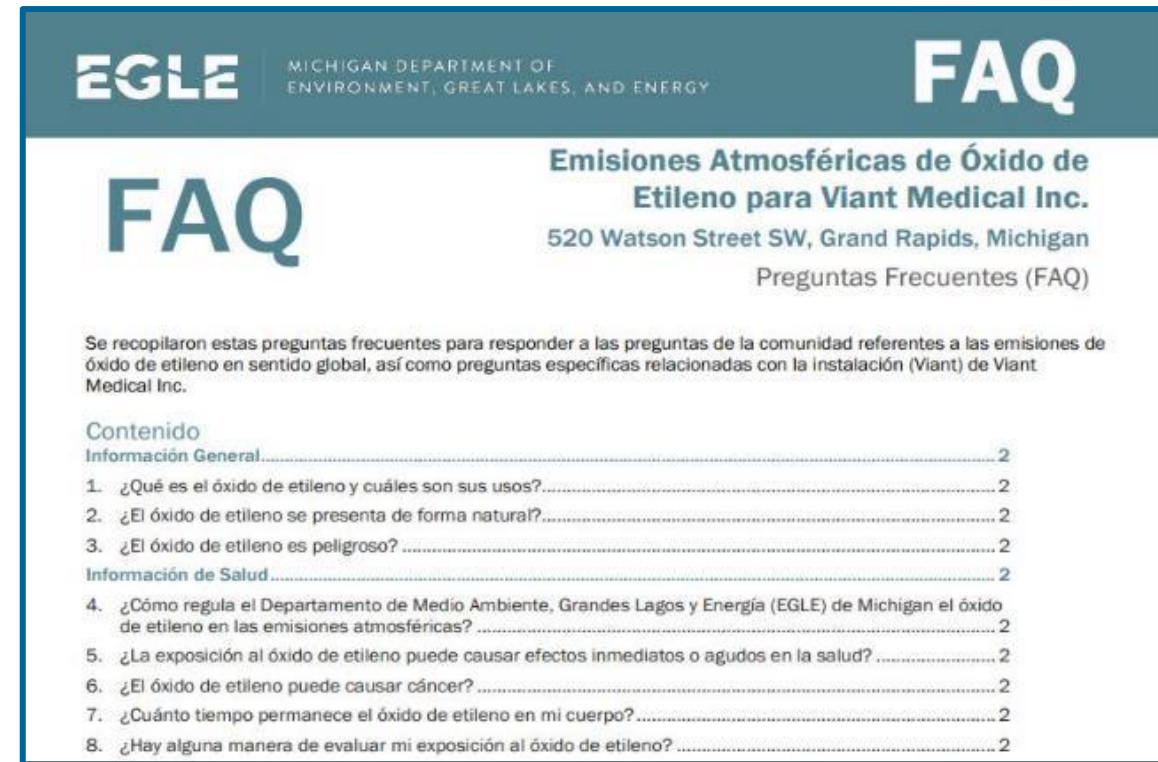
Early Stakeholder  
Engagement is  
Ideal

Active Listening

Explain Your  
Processes

# Engaging with the Public

- Engage with stakeholders beforehand
- Gauge community interest
- Plan public meeting/hearing
- Logistics - space/sizing
- Consider limited English proficiency community needs - assess if interpreter is needed.



# Engaging with the Public

Engage with state and local health departments –  
Invite them to be present at the meeting

Be Transparent

Be Prepared

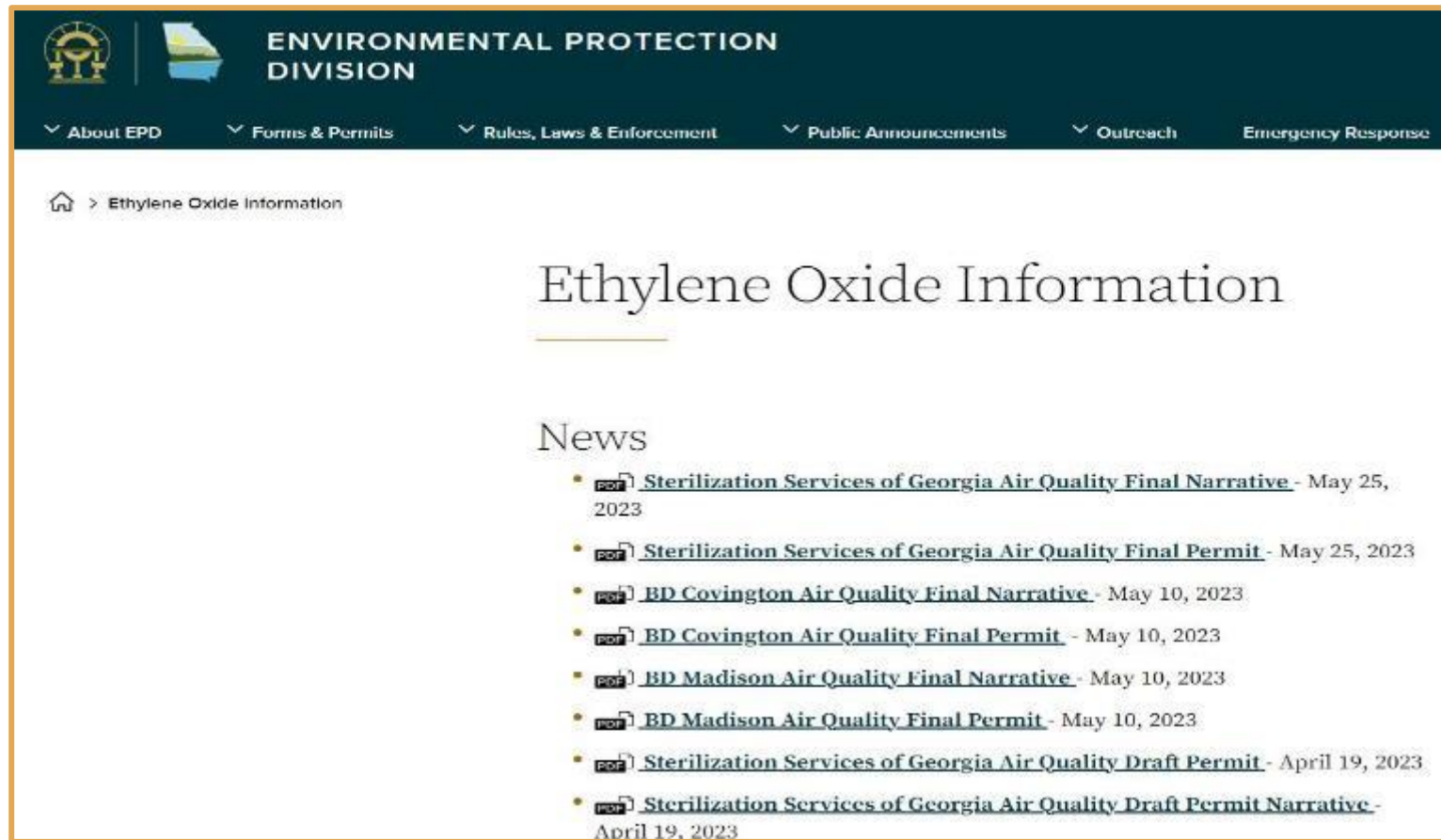
# Case Study – Who to Contact?

- Fence line communities
- Local government officials
- State and local health officials
- Manufacturers and users of EtO
- Nearby businesses
- Employees at facilities that use EtO



# COMMUNICATION IS KEY!!

# Case Study – Engaging with the public



Update website – do what you say, say what you do!

# Case Study – Your Team

## Lifetime Residential Cancer Risks – EtO Sterilization ACME Company, Anywhere, USA





# Case Study – What **Should** Be Communicated?

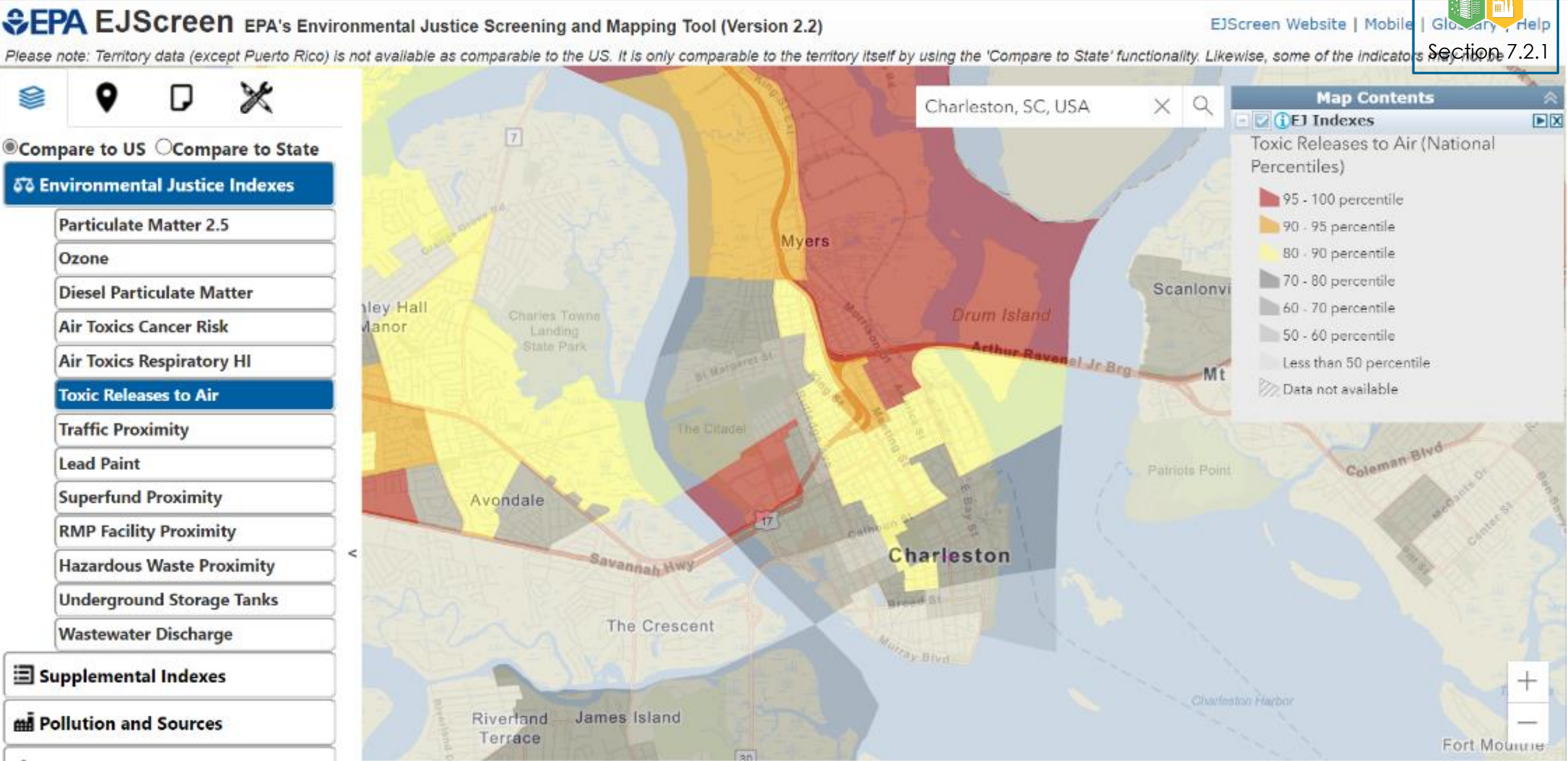


- Remember your audience
- Timely release of information
- Modeling results
- Next Steps

# Environmental Justice (EJ)

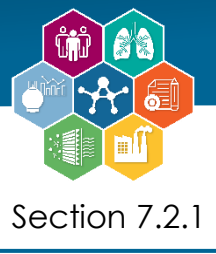


Section 7.2.1





# Additional EJ Resources



- USEPA's EnviroFacts
- Executive Order 14008 – Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool
- ATSDR's Environmental Justice Index
- State-Specific Resources
- National Tribal Air Association

# Poll Question

**Check  
In!**

Name a potential EtO stakeholder

☐ Short answer

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# Control Technologies

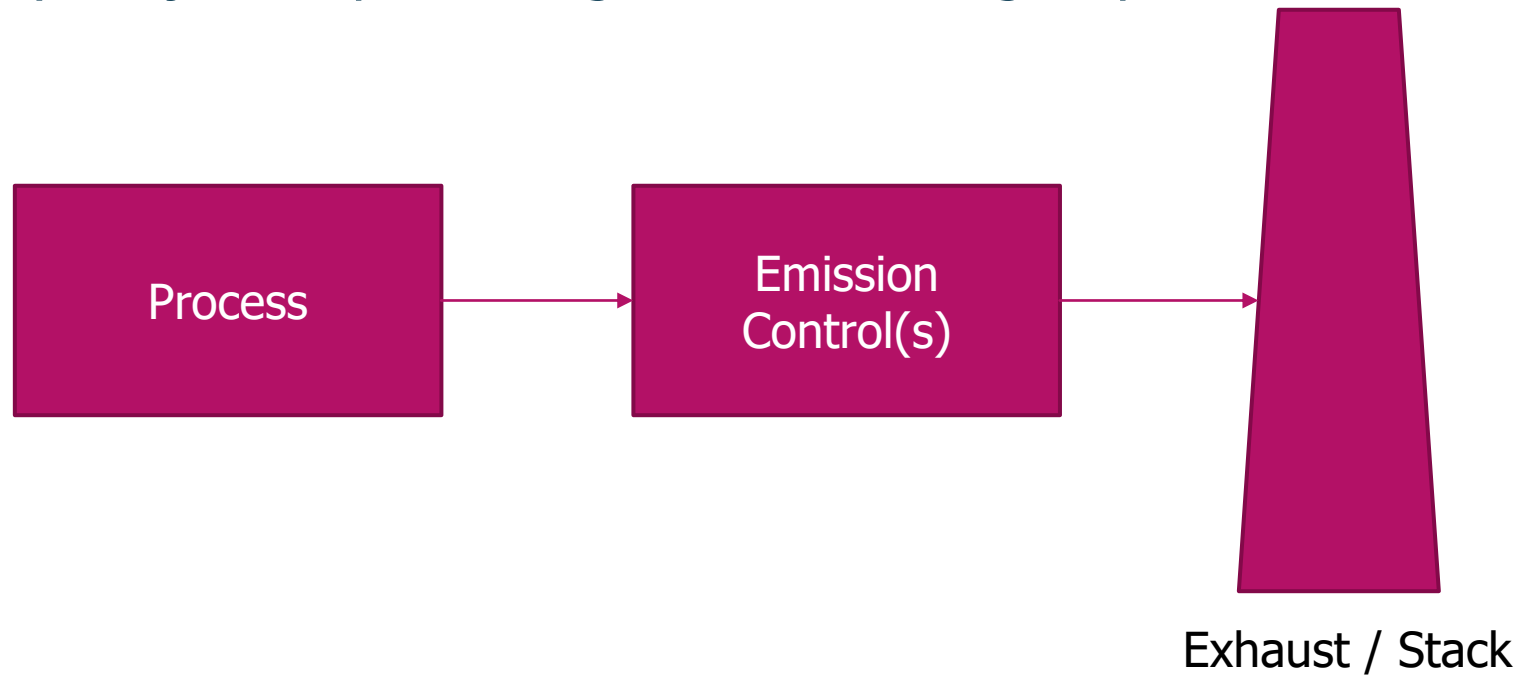


Section 5



# Control Technologies

- Typically apply to sources regulated under USEPA's NESHAP rules
- Control technologies
  - Reduce emissions from industrial processes, prior to venting to atmosphere
  - Are typically subject to permitting and monitoring requirements

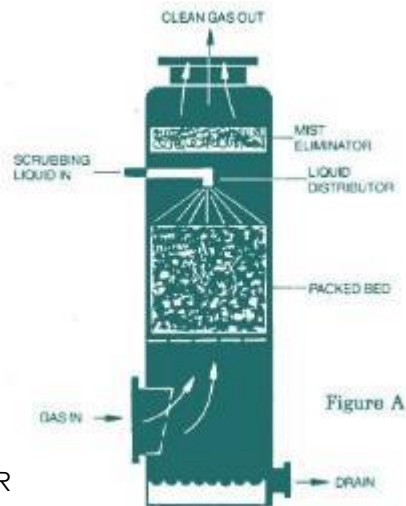


# Examples of Control Technologies



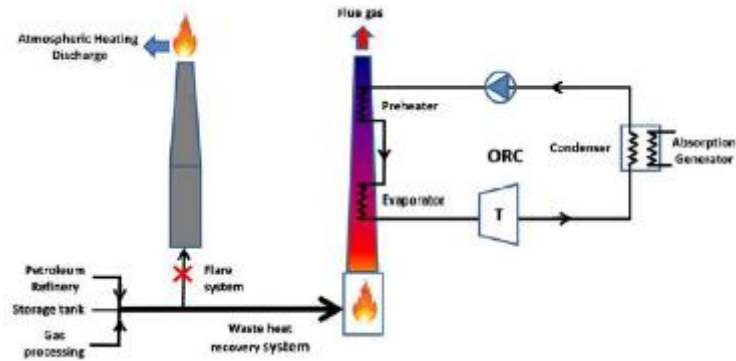
Section 5

## Wet Scrubber



Source: CR Clean Air

## Thermal Flare



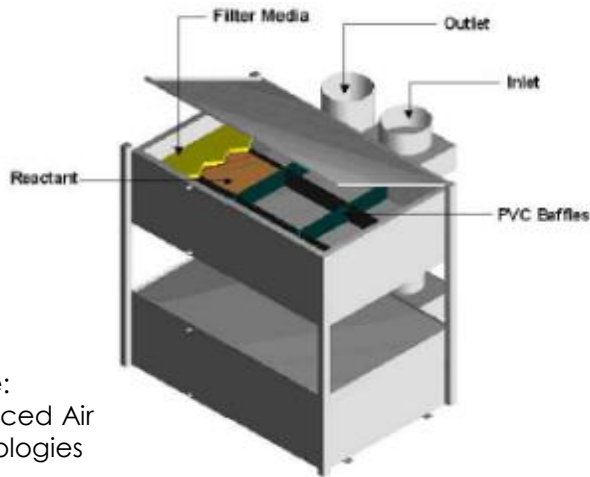
Source: Semmari and colleagues

## Bubbling Scrubber



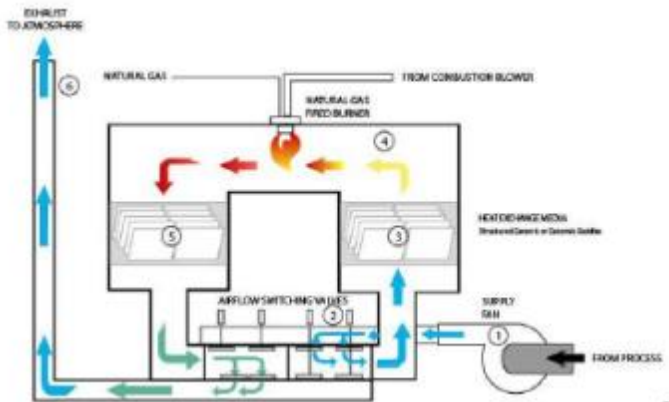
Source: Cosmed

## Dry Bed Scrubber



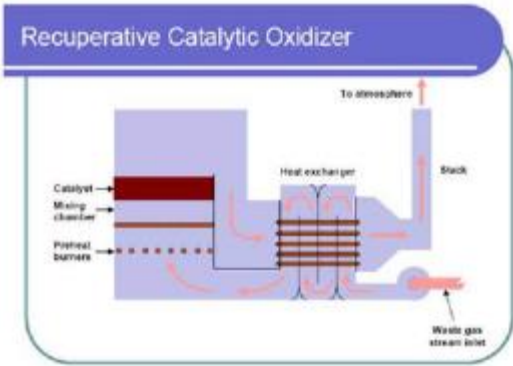
Source: Advanced Air Technologies

## Thermal Oxidizer



Source: Kono Kogs

## Catalytic Oxidizer



Source: USEPA

# Training Roadmap

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# How do you Know Where to Start?



- Review of Air Permits and Source Inspections
- Research Similar Industries
  - What Emission Factors Exist?
- Emissions Inventories
- Modeling
  - To determine if site-specific or community sampling is necessary
- Stack Testing

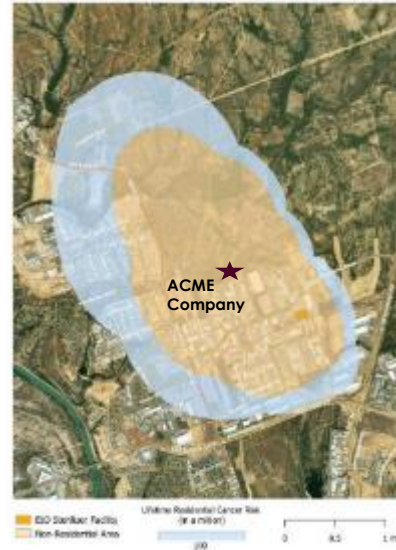
# What Types of Data are Available?



Section 6.1

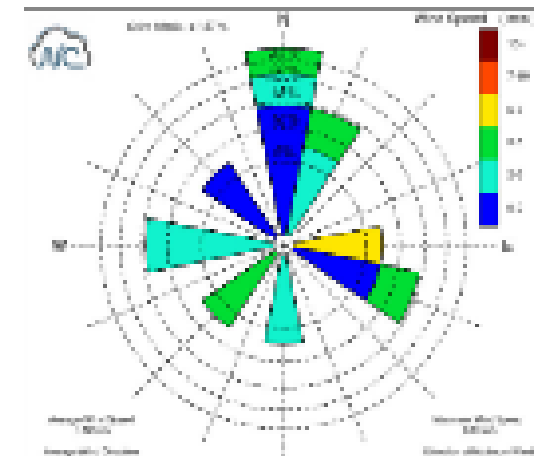
## Modeling

- Estimate EtO concentrations across broad areas
- Calculate and predict EtO concentrations, including below the method detection limit, allowing study of a wider range of potential risks
- Estimate long-term average concentrations
- Used for risk assessments
- Identify areas where monitoring may provide more detailed information
- Generally, a health-protective estimate



## Measurement

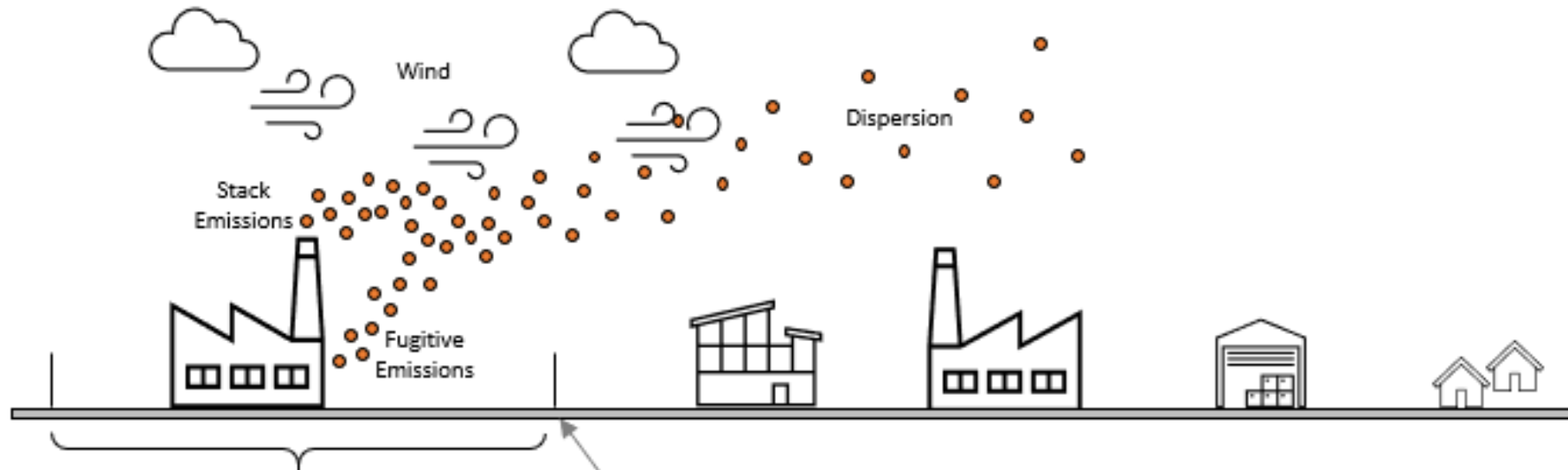
- Determine EtO concentration at specific locations and times
- Control and limit model inputs
- Calibrate models
- Quantify any change in concentrations of ethylene oxide in the ambient air
- Confirm facility reported emissions



# What are your Project Goals?



## Section 6.2



### Inside Facility Boundary:

Monitoring to show compliance,  
gather inputs for models

### Measurement Locations:

Stack / Source  
Near Source  
Work Areas

### Sampling Typically Performed by:

Facility

### Fenceline:

Monitoring to show compliance,  
confirm model results

### Measurement Locations:

Points along facility boundary

### Sampling Typically Performed by:

Facility or States

### Outside Facility Boundary:

Monitoring to calibrate models, provide  
actual concentrations at specific times  
and locations, reflect all sources

### Measurement Locations:

Ambient air monitoring network  
stations, temporary monitoring points,  
or mobile monitoring points

### Sampling Typically Performed by:

States

Notes: 1) Not to scale. 2) Cartoon for illustration only; not all scenarios depicted. 3) Figure after USEPA 2019b.

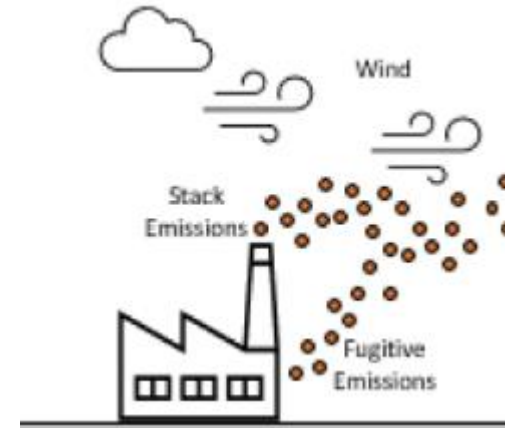
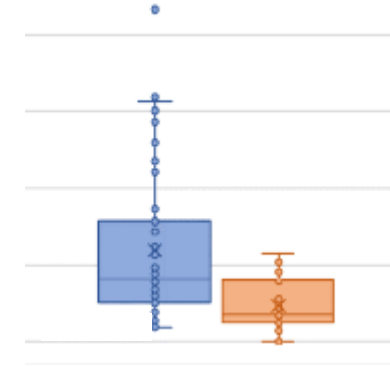
# How will the Data be Used?



Section 6.2

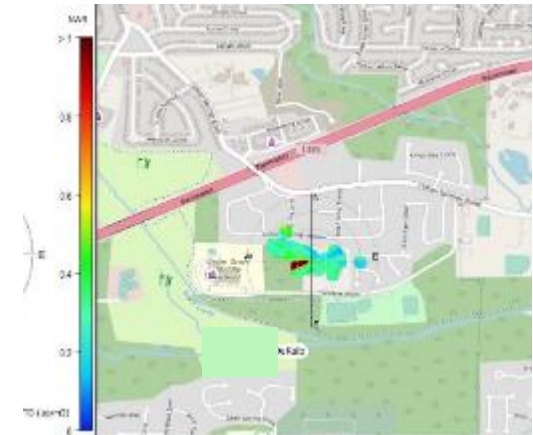
- Understanding frequency and purpose of collection are critical
- Continuous or sampling over production cycle may be sufficient to characterize emissions and effectiveness of control equipment
- Chronic risk assessments
  - Single grab sample or small groups of samples are not sufficient
- Ambient concentrations at fence line or community
- Determine emission rate emitted from the facility at stack

Comparison of sites/controls



Determination of stack/fugitive emissions

Characterize concentrations





# What Sampling Equipment to Use?



Sections 6.3  
and 6.5

## TO15/TO15A Canister Sampling

### Passive Sampling



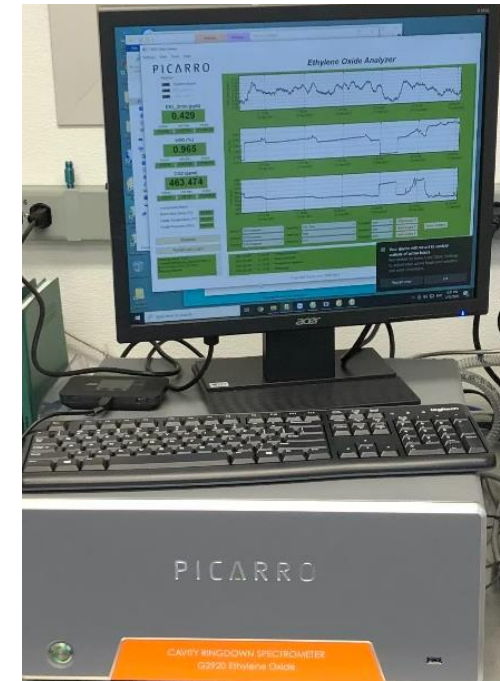
Source: MI EGLE

### Active (pressurized) Sampling



Source: GA EPD

## Continuous Sampling



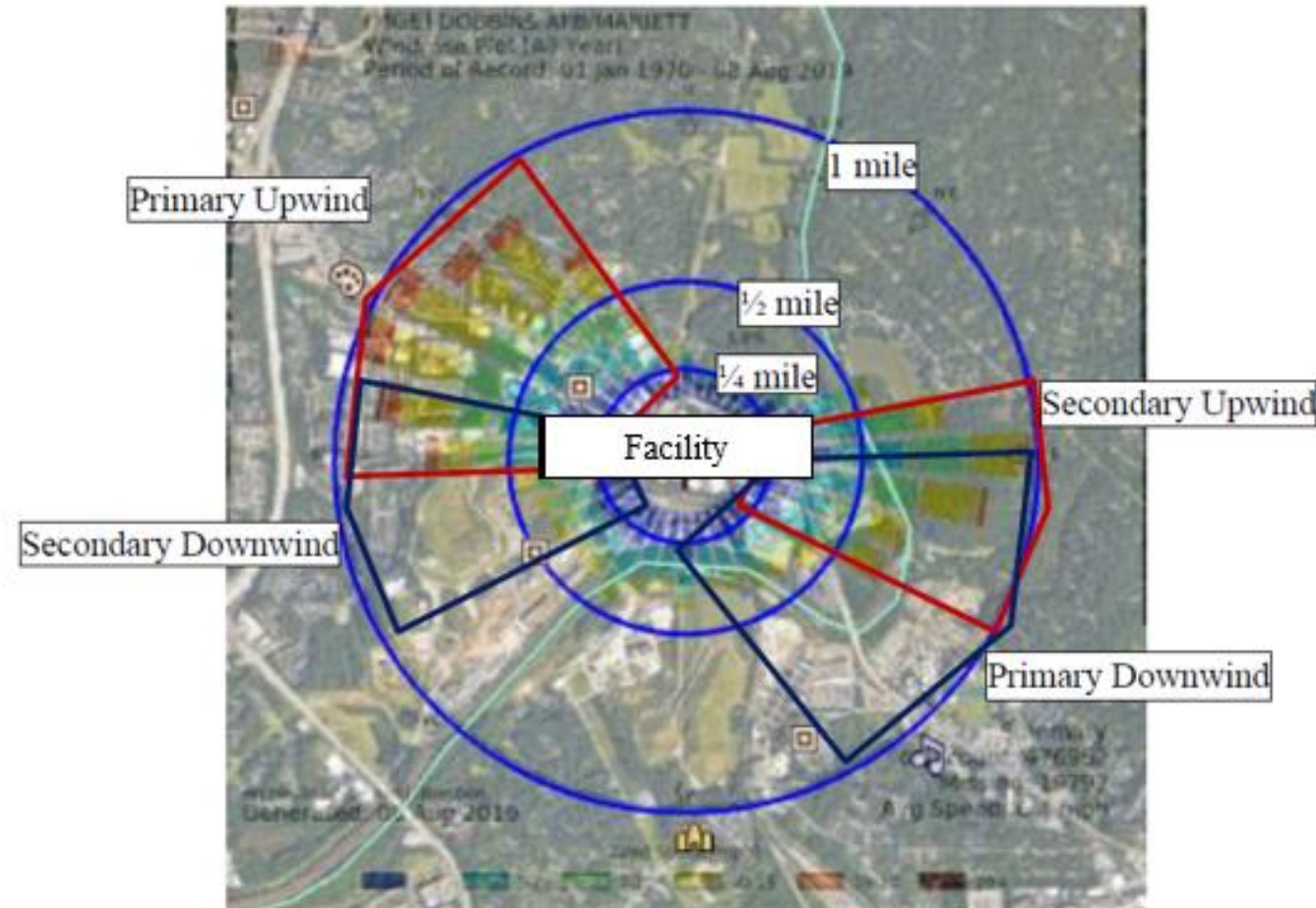
Source: GA EPD

# Logistical Considerations for Sampling



Section 6.2

- Breathing zone
- Obstructions in monitoring pathway
- Dispersion modeling to choose sampling locations
- Operations of Nearby Facilities
- Quality Assurance
- Sampling Duration



# What are Some Challenges of Sampling?



Section 6.5

Understanding of  
limitations is critical

Research is ongoing  
to overcome issues  
and develop better  
methodology

Recommend data  
validation and  
potential biases be  
accounted for in data  
reporting



## Source (in-stack) Monitoring

Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (CEMS)

Stack Testing – Periodic testing for regulatory compliance

Federal or state/local regulation for the appropriate test method

## Regulatory Analytical Challenges

Is the method sensitive to interferences?

Is there any occurrence of EtO formation in the canisters?

Is the operation of any EtO measurement with field analysis performed by qualified individual?



Background EtO: unsure what is being measured if we don't know where it's coming from

Studies have detected EtO in rural and rural settings with no known source of EtO in the vicinity

Analytical limitations make understanding the background challenging

# Questions

## Ethylene Oxide (EtO) Guidance

<https://eto-1.itrcweb.org>



Knowledge check: Cannot use short term sampling to calculate risk, must use modeling.

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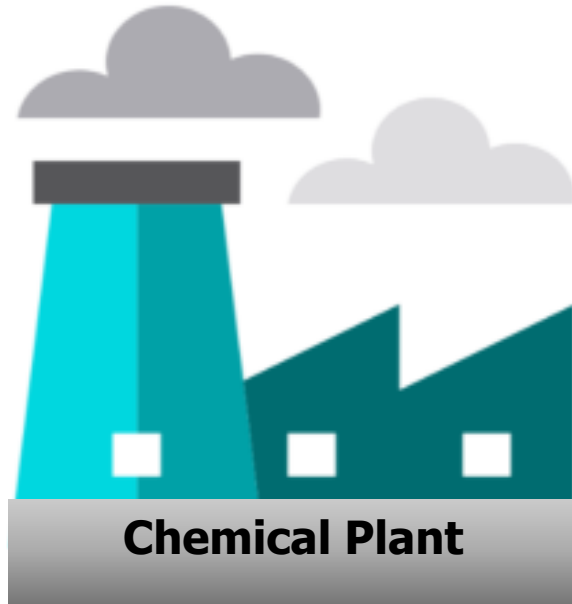
**Continuous Outreach & Resources**

**Q&A**

# Regulatory Framework – Categories



Section 3.4



**Chemical Plant**

**Chemical Manufacturing  
Industry**



**EtO Sterilization Industry**

Note: Regulatory information presented is current as of 11/27/2023.

# Regulations – Chemical Manufacturing Industry



Section 3.4

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Pollutants (NESHAP) from the Synthetic Organic Chemical Industry (SOCMI)

- Spans four (4) Subparts of 40 CFR Part 63 (Subparts F, G, H, and I)
- Also known as SOCMI and the Hazardous Organic NESHAP, or HON

NESHAP Emissions for Polyether Polyols Production

- 40 CFR Part 63 Subpart PPP

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Pollutants (NESHAP) from NESHAP for Miscellaneous Organic Manufacturing

- 40 CFR Part 63 Subpart FFFF
- Also known as the Miscellaneous Organic NESHAP, or MON



NESHAP Subpart

	F	G	H	I	PPP	FFFF
Also Known As	SOCMI / HON					MON
Date of Current Rule	12/21/2006				3/27/2014	8/12/2020
Under Review?	Yes				No	No
Source Status	Major				Major	Major

NESHAP – National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants



# Regulations – Sterilization Industry



Section 3.4

Ethylene Oxide Emissions Standards  
for Sterilization Facilities

- 40 CFR Part 63 Subpart O

NESHAP for Hospital Ethylene Oxide  
Sterilizers

- 40 CFR Part 63 Subpart FFFF
- Also known as the Miscellaneous Organic NESHAP, or MON

# Regulations – Sterilization Industry



Section 3.4.1  
and 3.4.2

## NESHAP Subpart

	○	WWWWW
<b>Date of Current Rule</b>	4/7/2006	12/28/2007
<b>Under Review?</b>	Yes	No
<b>Source Status</b>	Major & Area (>1 ton/year)	Area

NESHAP – National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants

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# Poll Question

**Check  
In!**

What EtO regulations are you aware of?

☐ Short answer

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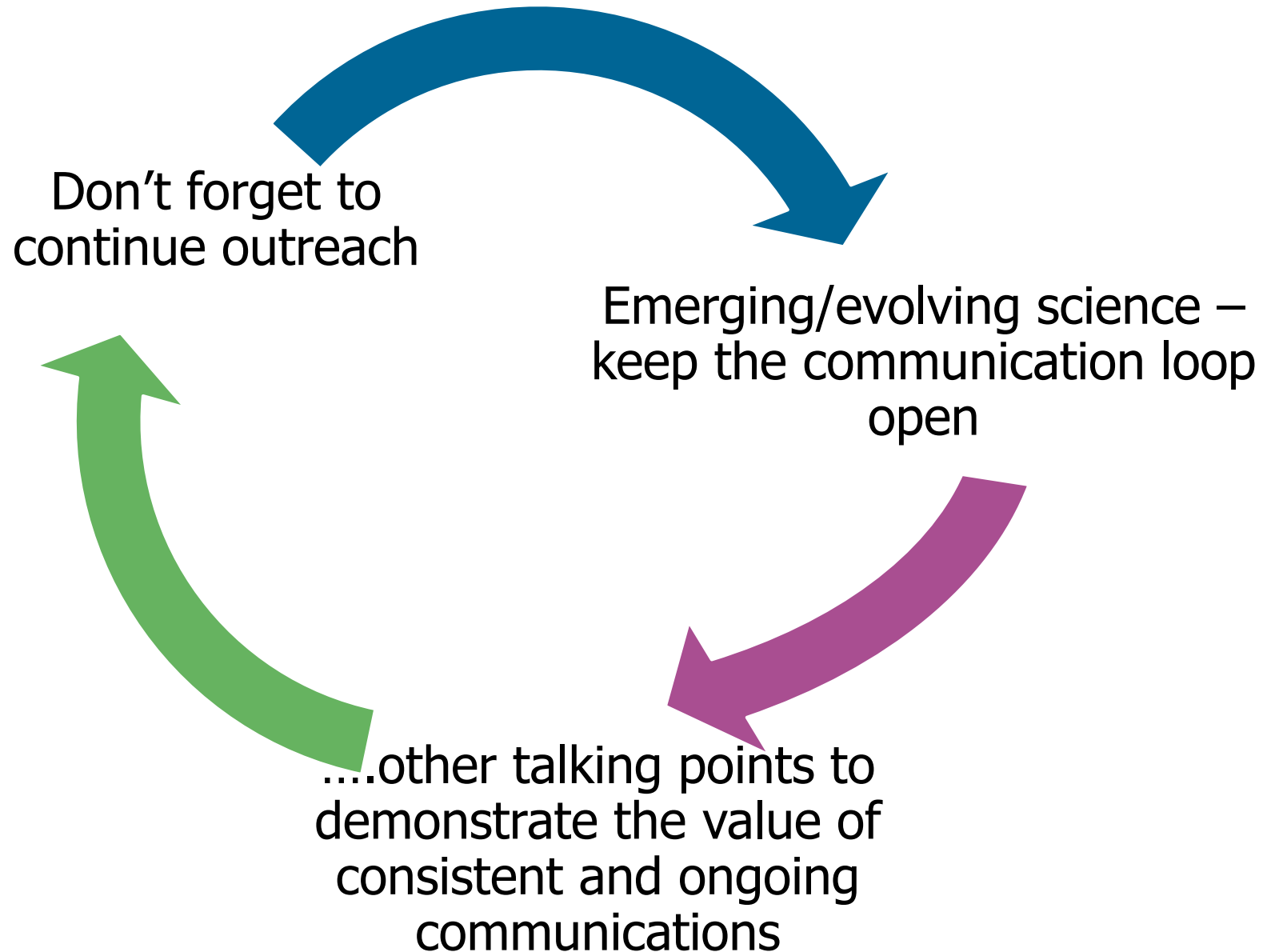
**Sampling & Monitoring**

**Regulations**

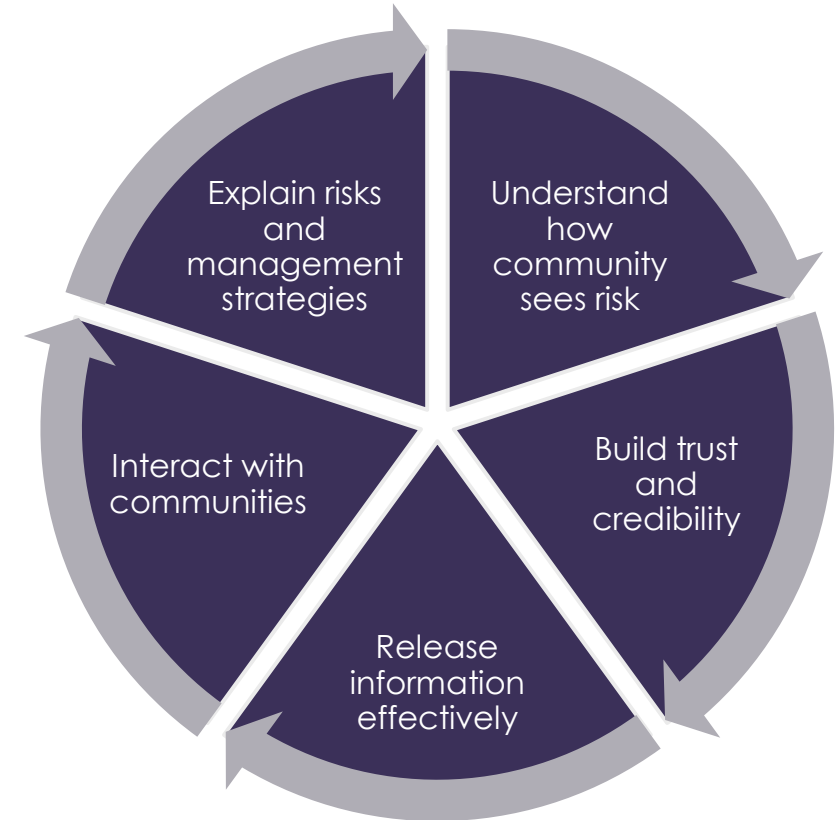
**Continuous Outreach & Resources**

**Q&A**

# Stakeholder – Continuous Outreach



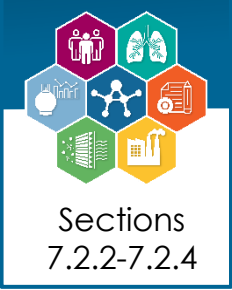
- Webpages & fact sheets
- Community is an important source of information
- ITRC Risk Communication Toolkit  
<https://rct-1.itrcweb.org/>



**Figure 1. Five Key Aspects of Risk Communication**

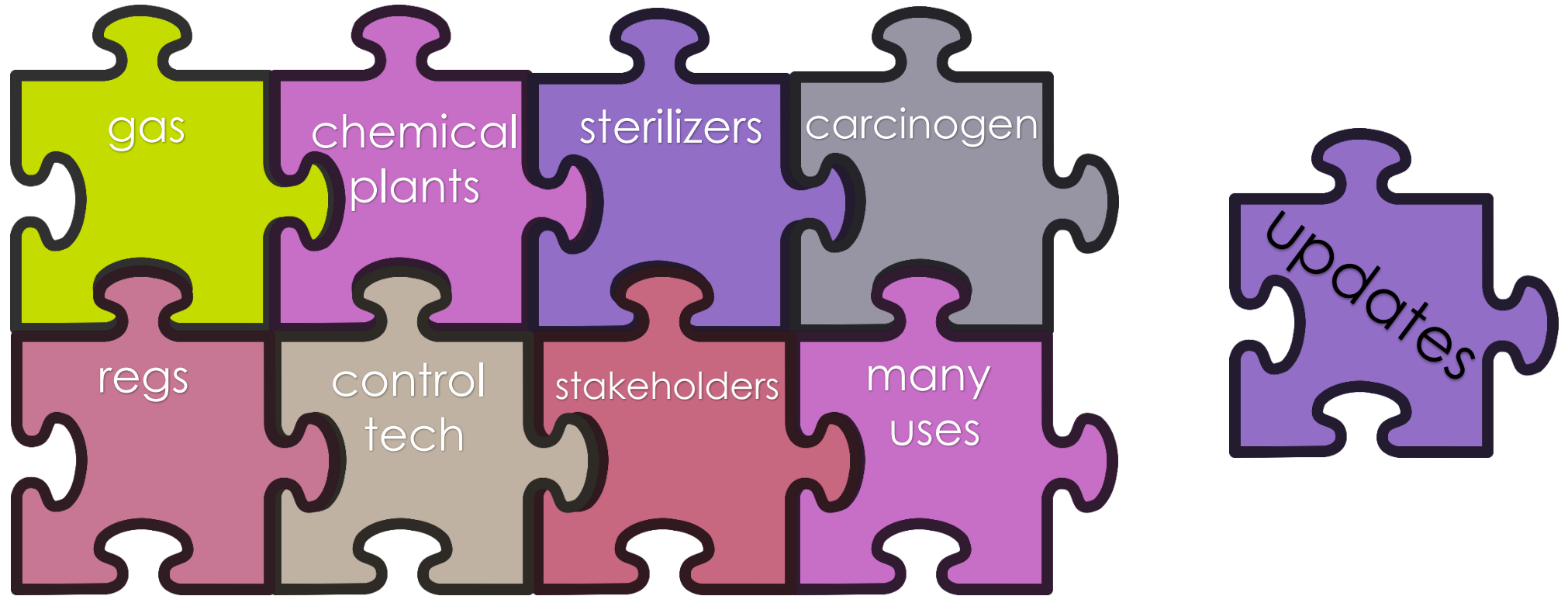


# Additional Resources



- USEPA Ethylene Oxide (EtO) FAQs
- ATSDR Clinician Brief: Ethylene Oxide, ATSDR's Community Engagement Playbook
- OSHA Safety Data Sheet for Ethylene Oxide
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- CDC Toxicological profile for Ethylene Oxide
- States: Refer to the Regulatory Framework Section

# Training Wrap-Up



# Questions

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<https://eto-1.itrcweb.org>

