

Willowbrook

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Fact Sheet on the Village of Willowbrook

Indoor and Outdoor Air Sampling

We understand that the Village of Willowbrook performed some air testing recently, what kind of testing was performed?

On November 16 and 17, 2018, our air quality consultant, GHD, Inc. (GHD), performed ethylene oxide (EtO) air sampling at discrete locations within the Village of Willowbrook. The sampling performed included both indoor and outdoor air sampling. Many factors went into selecting the locations for sampling including proximity to the Sterigenics facilities, differing types of indoor space occupation, and a technical assessment of air emissions and how they disperse under existing conditions. GHD also selected a location that will represent background—that is, a location where the air quality professionals have determined that no impact from Sterigenics facilities' emissions is expected. The testing involved the use of SUMMA Canisters over a 24-hour period. For the indoor sampling, air samples were collected at breathing zone height and in the school locations, samples were taken at several heights, including desk height. During the testing, GHD documented atmospheric conditions, temperature, humidity as well as the general use and conditions of the buildings selected for indoor air sampling. GHD collected 24-hour indoor and outdoor samples totaling 34 samples at 11 locations within the Village.

Where were the specific locations of the sampling?

The attached Map depicts the exact locations of both the indoor and outdoor air testing.

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What happens now that the sampling is completed?

The air samples collected have been shipped under appropriate chain of custody procedures to an accredited lab. The lab analysis can take anywhere from 5-14 days and the Village has asked for the results to be expedited. Once the laboratory results are received by the Village, the data on the indoor testing will be provided to the property owner of each building. GHD and the Village's toxicologist will also analyze the data for both the indoor and outdoor locations to identify any occupied areas where airborne EtO concentrations are present in concentrations greater than the outdoor air. The Village will also share the results publicly on the Village's webpage and with the Illinois Attorney General's Office, DuPage County State's Attorney's Office, U.S. EPA, Illinois EPA, Illinois Department of Public Health and DuPage County Department of Public Health. Should results from the air testing indicate an immediate and acute risk to human health, the Village will ask that the Illinois Attorney General and DuPage County State's Attorney take swift action to close down operations at the facilities. The Village will also both assess whether additional, longer term testing should be performed based upon the results, and will use the data to encourage the regulators to provide better and clear answers to the public.

Will the air sampling results tell us if we are at a higher risk for cancer?

Developing cancer takes a long time (decades) and the risk of developing cancer depends on a combination of many factors, including genetics, the immune system, diet, occupational exposures, hormones, lifestyle, and environmental exposures. U.S. EPA cancer potency factors are based on lifetime exposure, so estimating cancer risk requires information on EtO concentrations that people are exposed to every day, all day long, for many years. The Village's one day of air monitoring cannot provide this information and the monitoring is not intended to tell citizens whether they are at a higher risk of cancer because a single one-day monitoring effort cannot tell us what long-term exposure levels are.

U.S. EPA has publicly stated that it intends to perform risk assessment after it completes its own outdoor air testing. U.S. EPA's public announcement of its testing included the following information: *"Conducting an analysis of potential health risks takes time; it is a scientific process that will take several months. Estimating risk is a three-step process.*

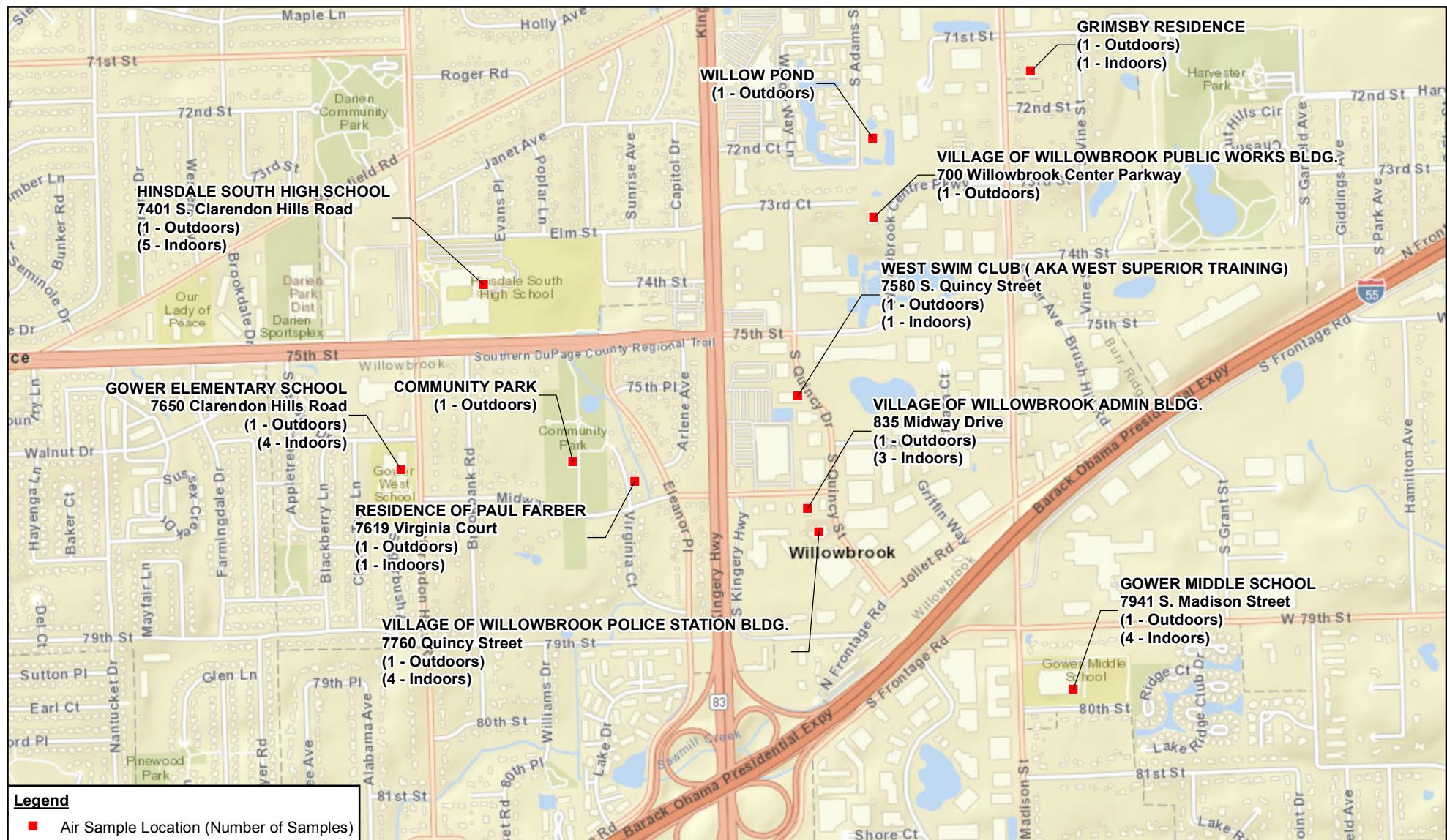
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- *Step one: EPA collects emissions data from the facility. This includes the emissions measurements taken at Sterigenics in September (stack tests) along with gathering additional information about uncontrolled leaks of ethylene oxide at the facility and calculating these emissions. This will take several months.*
- *Step two: EPA inputs the collected data into a computer model that calculates concentrations of ethylene oxide in the community.*
- *Step three: EPA uses the modeled concentrations of ethylene oxide in the air to estimate risks.” See EPA’s Information Statement on Outdoor Air Monitoring in the Willowbrook Community.*

How does the Village’s testing compare to the testing being done by U.S. EPA?

As explained, our testing included indoor sampling as well as outdoor sampling over a 24-hour period of time. U.S. EPA’s testing, on the other hand, is focused on measuring outdoor air and will specifically help identify whether potential leaks of EtO (emissions that may be released through the air from sources of the facilities other than the emissions stack) exist. U.S. EPA will also test over a 3-month period of time. EPA will use the information it gathers over the next several months to calculate the concentration of EtO in the air and then as it has indicated, will use a computer model to estimate risk.

Since Village residents have been very concerned about whether EtO concentrates once it enters building structures, the Village’s testing will be a good first step to comparing indoor air concentrations to outdoor air concentrations. We intend to share our results with U.S. EPA to help inform the health risk assessment they have committed to performing.



Source: ESRI World Street Map. Esri, DeLorme, HERE, USGS, Intermap, iPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Tomtom

0 0.1 0.2 0.3
Miles

Coordinate System:
NAD 1983 StatePlane Illinois East
FIPS 1201 Feet



VILLAGE OF WILLOWBROOK, ILLINOIS

NOVEMBER 16-17, 2018
AREA AIR SAMPLING LOCATIONS

11183332
Nov 16, 2018

FIGURE 1