

Air Enforcement: Alabama Department of Environmental Management and Columbia Ethylene Oxide Sterilization Facility Enter into Consent Order



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04/30/2024

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (“ADEM”) and GRI-APS (“GRI”) entered into a April 16th Consent Order (“CO”) addressing an alleged violation of the ADEM Administrative Code addressing air requirements.

The CO states that GRI applied to construct and operate an Ethylene Oxide (“EtO”) sterilization facility (“facility”) in Columbia, Alabama on May 19th, 2022.

ADEM is stated to have issued an air permit (“permit”) to GRI on January 8.

GRI stated to have verified to ADEM that construction began on the control device associated with the EtO sterilization process the facility on January 19, 2023. An ADEM inspection was conducted on the facility on November 30, 2023, and observed construction of the following:

- Sterilization chambers
- Pre-Aeration Transfer Station
- Aeration Chambers
- EtO Storage Area

The CO provides that construction on a Greenfield Site without a permit is a violation of the ADEM Administrative Code.

GRI is stated to neither admit nor deny ADEM’s contentions.

A civil penalty of \$50,000 is assessed.

A copy of the CO can be downloaded [here](#).