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Ronnie Johnston, Mayor
Leigh Anne Knight, City Manager

October 16, 2019

Dr. Johann Fernando
8195 Industrial Blvd.
Covington, GA 30014

Dear Dr. Fernando,

As you are aware, the City of Covington contracted with Montrose Air Quality Services to test airborne levels of Ethylene Oxide in our community with a focus on the areas surrounding the BD facility on Industrial Boulevard in Covington. The initial results of those tests recently became available and indicate particularly high levels of Ethylene Oxide in neighborhoods adjacent to your sterilization facility.

I understand that additional emissions control equipment will be installed in the future designed to reduce the emissions of Ethylene Oxide at your facility. Due to the high levels of Ethylene Oxide detected, the Covington City Council and I strongly request that you cease sterilization operations at the Covington BD facility until the additional controls are in place and we have data indicating those controls are functioning properly.

Please know this is a decision we did not take lightly. BD has been an important component of the industrial fabric in Covington for decades and we appreciate BD's contributions. I am sure you will agree however, the health and welfare of our citizens is everyone's chief priority.

Thank you in advance for your commitment to ensuring the safety of our community.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Johnston
Mayor, City of Covington, Ga.

CC: Georgia Governor Brian Kemp
Mary Walker, EPA Southeast Region 4 Administrator
Richard Dunn, Director, Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Ron Pasdon, Sr. Operations Manager – Sterilization, BD