

2026-R-119

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, SUPPORTING THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S INTEGRATED RISK INFORMATION SYSTEM (IRIS) STANDARD FOR ETHYLENE OXIDE; OPPOSING PROPOSED ROLLBACKS TO ETHYLENE OXIDE REGULATIONS; ENDORSING PUBLIC HEALTH-BASED REGULATORY DECISION-MAKING; AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS; AND PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS.**

**WHEREAS**, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is charged with protecting human health and the environment, including regulating hazardous air pollutants such as ethylene oxide (EtO), a known carcinogen associated with increased cancer risk from long-term exposure; and

**WHEREAS**, the EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) provides scientifically grounded risk values that serve as a critical foundation for evaluating public health impacts and guiding regulatory protections; and

**WHEREAS**, these proposed protections included continuous emissions monitoring, enhanced controls on aeration room vents, and permanent total enclosure requirements, with an estimated reduction of ethylene oxide emissions by approximately 80 percent annually; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Laredo is home to facilities that utilize ethylene oxide in commercial operations, which are subject to federal and state regulatory requirements intended to ensure the protection of public health and the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, publicly available studies and regulatory assessments indicate that ambient ethylene oxide concentrations in certain areas may exceed typical background levels, and that prolonged exposure to elevated concentrations may be associated with increased health risks, including cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, children and other vulnerable populations are particularly sensitive to ethylene oxide exposure, with potential for greater long-term health impacts due to prolonged retention of the chemical in the body; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Laredo has proactively implemented air monitoring initiatives and continues to prioritize community-level exposure assessment to better understand and mitigate environmental health risks; and

**WHEREAS**, the EPA has proposed reconsideration of the 2024 NESHAP amendments, including potential reductions in requirements for continuous emissions monitoring systems, technology review standards, and enclosure requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, reliance solely on technology-based standards, without continued evaluation of residual risk and real-world exposure, may limit the ability to determine whether emissions controls are sufficiently protective of public health; and

**WHEREAS**, regulatory frameworks must maintain a strong connection to measurable public health outcomes, including reductions in ambient air concentrations and associated health risks;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO THAT:**

**Section 1:** The City of Laredo formally supports maintaining the EPA’s Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) standard for ethylene oxide as a critical, science-based benchmark for protecting public health.  
The City of Laredo supports a regulatory framework that integrates both technology-based standards and risk-based assessments, ensuring that emissions controls are evaluated based on real-world health impacts.  
The City Council opposes any proposed regulatory changes that would weaken protections against ethylene oxide exposure, including reductions in:

- o Continuous emissions monitoring requirements;
- o Technology review standards for aeration room vents; and
- o Permanent total enclosure requirements.

The City of Laredo affirms that public health protection must remain the primary objective of environmental regulation, and that economic considerations should not outweigh the health and safety of communities.  
The City supports continued ambient air monitoring and community-level exposure assessment, recognizing these tools as essential for evaluating actual impacts and informing regulatory decisions.  
The City of Laredo urges the EPA to ensure that regulatory standards result in measurable improvements in local air quality and corresponding reductions in public health risks.  
The City Manager or his designee is authorized to submit this Resolution and accompanying comments to the EPA public comments portal, reflecting the City’s official position.  
The City of Laredo will continue to engage in proactive public health monitoring, community communication, and intergovernmental coordination to protect the well-being of its residents.

**Section 2:** No financial impact at this time.

**PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.**

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**DR. VICTOR D. TREVINO  
MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

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**MARIO I. MALDONADO JR.**  
**CITY SECRETARY**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM**  
**DOANH T. NGUYEN, CITY ATTORNEY**

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**AMBER R. HOLMES**  
**ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY**