Chairman Boyce Signs Emergency Order Allowing Sterigenics Facility to Resume Operations

The company’s sterilization of medical equipment deemed crucial to fight against COVID-19

March 25, 2020 | At the urging of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and communicated through state officials, Chairman Mike Boyce signed an emergency authorization Wednesday to allow the Sterigenics facility to operate on a limited contingency basis. A letter from the FDA cited the current situation involving the COVID-19 virus and the lack of critical personal protective equipment (PPE) as a reason for the action.

Sterigenics completed a negative air pressure test of its facility Monday. The Chief of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division Air Protection Branch told the county the test showed the system “appeared to be working as designed.” EPD officials are awaiting a final test report to review before the facility can be cleared to resume operations.

The Limited Emergency Authorization expires at the end of the county’s Declaration of Emergency, restricts the amount of ethylene oxide permitted on site, and provides for immediate reporting of any incident at the facility.

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