



Commentary on Cobb County, Georgia Litigation
Michael B. Petras, Jr.
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Third Quarter 2025 Earnings Conference Call
November 4, 2025

I would like to give an update regarding the ethylene oxide (EO) personal injury claims in Cobb County, Georgia.

Although this is a lengthy and detailed update, the key point is while the cases pending in Cobb County still have a ways to go, we believe the recent Phase One and Phase Two rulings align with our longstanding position that, when the science is considered fully, fairly and properly, the evidence refutes the plaintiffs' claims in these matters.

As a reminder, the Cobb County court ordered "phased" proceedings in eight "bellwether" cases selected by plaintiffs' counsel. Phase One was devoted to "general causation." The court required the plaintiffs to prove that EO emissions from our Atlanta facility are capable of causing the diseases alleged by the plaintiffs. In November 2024, the court excluded two of the plaintiffs' three general causation experts but allowed the third expert under a "new standard" created by the court for these cases that did not require plaintiffs to establish the exposure levels at which EO becomes harmful to humans. Both sides appealed.

On Friday, October 31, the Georgia Court of Appeals rejected the trial court's "new standard" and vacated the trial court's Phase One orders. Consistent with our position, the Court of Appeals directed the trial court to apply the correct standard that requires causation experts to reliably identify the levels at which exposure to EO becomes harmful. The Court of Appeals also instructed the trial court to consider whether plaintiffs can prove general causation using epidemiologic evidence and background risks of the diseases at issue, which all occur in the general population without exposure to EO emissions.

While the Phase One appeals were pending, three of the bellwether cases proceeded to Phase Two, which was devoted to "specific causation." Plaintiffs were required to present admissible expert testimony that the plaintiffs were exposed to doses of EO from the Atlanta facility that caused their diseases. On October 17, the trial court excluded all three of plaintiffs' causation experts and dismissed all three cases for failure to present reliable and admissible evidence of specific causation. The Court also dismissed the plaintiffs' claims for nuisance, noting that plaintiffs had not presented any evidence that the Atlanta facility had violated EPA, Georgia EPD, or Cobb County requirements.

Although the Phase Two Orders apply only to the three bellwether cases, we believe the substantive grounds for the rulings apply with equal force to the remaining personal injury cases. This will be decided in due course by the Cobb County court and, if necessary, the Georgia appellate courts.

We will continue to put the science front and center as we defend Sterigenics' safe and essential operations.

This statement, the trial court's Phase One and Phase Two Orders and the decision of the Georgia Court of Appeals are all available on our website.