

ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION

SEATTLE DIVISION

1411 FOURTH AVENUE

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

INTER-OFFICE
CORRESPONDENCE

March 19, 1942.

Memorandum to Dr. Willard Machle -

Dear Bill:

I am attaching hereto copy of letter which I have written Harry regarding a condition existing at S.O. Indiana - Casper.

I do not know whether or not this condition has been previously studied, or whether the results found by the local chemist indicate a definite hazard. I realize that a petroleum chemist has not had the experience in lead determination that your lab has and the results found may be far from accurate although I believe that it does indicate a hazard may exist in the material which is found between the laps in the sheets.

While the tank is erect the cleaning can be practically perfect but nothing can be done to the lap until the tank is dismantled. In the dismantling the worker is on a scaffold and the rivets are "busted" from the inside with an air driven "rivet buster". Under these conditions the workers face is not more than 18" to 24" from the work. As this work is done by an outside contractor at a specified price, time is the main factor. Therefor I am afraid we will have quite a job on our hands to have these workers follow out recommended practices for an unclean tank.

I would appreciate your comments on this matter and if you desire to visit the job I can arrange to hold up the dismantling until you arrive.

Kindest personal regards,

Very truly yours,



John S. Cole.

March 19, 1942.

Mr. Harry Kuhe.

Dear Harry:

Standard Oil Co. of Indiana at Casper again started the cleaning of Tanks Nos. 97 and 98, which are of 25,000 barrels capacity, preparatory to dismantling same.

The last two tanks which were cleaned for dismantling at this refinery were in the spring and we were very fortunate in having muddy river water which carried a high percentage of solids, and, in fact was equivalent to a wet sandblast. With this method all sheets were clean to the point of absolutely no deposit remaining.

The work on the two present tanks was started in Jan. of this year but had to be discontinued because of freezing conditions. We then decided to wait until spring when we would again have a muddy river. As the contractor is about ready for these tanks the management decided they could not wait until spring so have started this week.

(The following data was obtained from the management confidentially since their recent instructions are to release no data without consent of their Chicago Office. I therefor would appreciate it if it did not get back to S.O. Indiana at Chicago that we have obtained this data.)

The Chemist at this refinery obtained some rust from the side sheets and analyzed same for lead. His findings were negative although samples taken from the lap in the side sheets showed between .25% and .35% lead. These figures are total lead and attempt was made to differentiate between organic and inorganic. For the benefit of our Medical Dept. I might mention that two door sheets were removed from each tank prior to entering for cleaning and it was from these sheets that the sample was obtained from under the lap of the side sheet.

I have reviewed Dr. Tashle's report and can find no mention of this condition and would therefor appreciate his comments on same. As these door sheets have been off and weathered for about two months, I do not believe samples from same would be representative at present. If our Medical Dept. so desires I can have another sheet removed and obtain a sample from same for further analysis.

These tanks are of riveted construction and the lapping of sheets are caulked from the outside which will permit seepage between sheets from the inside.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter direct to Dr. Fehoe since they expect to dismantle one of these tanks sometime next week.

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Very truly yours,

Harry Kuhe