

January 11, 1961

Mr. I. Matelsky
General Electric Company
Lamp Division
Nela Park
Cleveland 12, Ohio

Dear Mr. Matelsky:

I have just gone over the results obtained in the experimental examination of the fate of your lamp coating material when administered by mouth to an experimental subject. As I anticipated, the material passes through the alimentary tract with so little loss of absorbed lead (absorbed in the alimentary tract during passage), as to be detectable only in the form of a very minute and temporary elevation of the rate of the urinary lead output. Indeed the increase here may be purely incidental or fortuitous, for it is certainly too small to have any physiological significance, and it may be statistically insignificant.

In any case the data are in the hands of Dr. Sterling for statistical examination and we shall see what, if anything, he can make of them. They are so simple and so definite in their meaning, however, that I have little doubt as to his conclusions.

There is only one detail that is ambiguous (or might be if we had had less experience with this type of situation), namely, that the output of lead from the body during the experimental period (according to present data and calculations) was greater, by slightly more than 50 milligrams, than the apparent intake. This difference is much too great to be valid, and, therefore, we recognize the existence of an error. Mr. Cholak (Chief of the analytical group) believes that our analyses of the plastic coating yielded low results and that, therefore, the estimated dosage per day is in error. He is repeating these analyses after introducing a slight modification of the method of preparing the plastic material for analysis. When he has satisfied himself on this score the job will have been completed and the report will be prepared in final form. This will take only a few days. I would anticipate that the report will be in your hands within two weeks.

Meanwhile I am pleased to assure you that the experimental evidence is exactly as I expected it to be. You need have no fear of the commercial exploitation of this product in the manner anticipated, either from the aspect of any actual risk or from any allegations that might be made in relation to the absorption of lead. That is, you will be able to combat any such claim with irrefutable evidence to the contrary.

Cordially yours,

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