

July 30, 1942.

Mr. R. P. Koehring,
Moraine Products Division,
General Motors Corporation,
Dayton, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Koehring:

It would be a little difficult for me to express an opinion concerning the possible dangers associated with the conditions in your plant, as described in your letter of July 17. It seems quite probable that lead in the form of dust will not occur to any extent in the vicinity of your melting pot. On the other hand, if it were feasible to cover the pot with a layer of charcoal, you would probably prevent the formation of dust and you would likely filter out much of the lead fumes and thereby reduce its dissemination into the atmosphere. The latter may or may not be possible, but if it should be, it would be a good step to take.

As to the means of collecting the material in the stack, much would depend upon the height of the stack and the temperature of the stack fumes. The collection might be made by means of bag filters, but this would not be feasible without a considerable length of stack and adequate cooling. Electrostatic precipitation might also be employed, but this would probably be expensive and might be very difficult to do at this time because of the present situation with regard to materials and equipment. On the whole, I would say that it would be inadvisable to attempt any method of collection of the fumes without knowing the range of lead concentrations present in the stack or in various areas in the general vicinity of the stack. There is no doubt that collection can be provided if necessary, and I should think it would be advisable to determine how necessary it is.

With reference to the possible exposure of your men, I should say that no method of physical examination is likely to determine for you the degree of lead exposure unless it has been in existence for some time. On the other hand, some observation on the lead excretion of the men would give you your answer without much question. What you need, I believe, is information along this line. It might be that by mere inspection of your plant I could tell you whether there is any particular point in making observations, either on the men or on certain areas near the

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stack, but it is not possible to give you much advice, sight unseen. If you would like to have me come up and look at the plant, please let me know and I shall do so at a convenient time.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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