

February 4, 1949

Dr. Dudley A. Irwin,
Medical Director,
Aluminum Company of America,
Pittsburgh 19, Pennsylvania.

Dear Dudley:

I have spent the morning talking with Mr. A. B. Pettit of the Davison Chemical Corporation of Baltimore, Maryland, with reference to the problems of his company as they relate to the occupational hazards of their employees, as well as the community hazards associated with the operation of several of their plants, with primary reference to the problem of fluorides. The executives of this company have begun to take their problems seriously, and have delegated Mr. Pettit to examine into the situation and to determine what they should do, both for their employees and the community.

After getting at their problems and their point of view, I have given Mr. Pettit some advice on what I consider to be wise procedure on their part. I have also told him that you and Doctor Frary have assembled the best information that is available, both with respect to your employees and the community aspects of their problem, and that I felt that he should by all means obtain your advice before coming to a definite conclusion and reporting to his company officials. Anything that he proposes will have to be realistic. Expenditures will have to be made, and these will have to be justified, and while I can present to him what I consider to be full justification, it seems to me that if he could report on the experience and attitudes of your company, it would give him the best possible backing for the development of a proper program.

Mr. Pettit came to me with a very high recommendation from one of my associates in Ethyl Corporation, and I had no hesitation in dealing with him in a straightforward manner and in spending a considerable amount of time with him. For obvious reasons, I have not passed on to him the confidential information which I have on your situation, nor have I promised him anything at your hands, although I felt reasonably certain that you would be prepared, at your convenience, to talk his problem over with him and to give him any advice which you considered wise. I am frank to say that I hope you and Doctor Frary together will be able to show him some of your data, if for no other reason than to illustrate the manner in which they will have to go about obtaining information for themselves. He wants to propose a concrete program of environmental study, and you can be very helpful to him in this regard on the basis of your own experience. Whatever you decide to do for him will be your own thing. I have asked him to get in touch with you by correspondence or by telephone, so as to make an engagement with you, if possible.

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You can take the ball from there in any manner you choose. I trust that this is agreeable to you, and that I have not put you at a disadvantage.

Mr. Pettit can tell you, if he likes, as to the nature of my advice. However, I shall not condition your reaction by telling you what my advice has been, since I am sure he will want your opinions on the basis of your own experience.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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