

CONTACT REPORT

Via Telephone - December 8, 1959

In Conference -

J. R. MacGregor, California Research, San Francisco
Harold J. Gibson, Ethyl Corporation

Mr. MacGregor called, by prearrangement, to discuss the comments which California Research personnel had raised relative to the report prepared by Dr. Kehoe covering recent studies of antiknock compound X-105A in San Francisco. Mr. MacGregor indicated that he had made arrangements for a similar discussion with Mr. Sabina of duPont at the close of our discussion. In answer to a direct question, Mr. MacGregor indicated that the Standard Oil Company of California had not yet reached a decision as to whether or not they would market X-105A. Mr. MacGregor was reminded that we already have a substantial investment in the program, and was told that we had made commitments for long-time equipment which would put us in a position to meet their requirements for commercial use as promptly as possible. He said he had this in mind and that one reason for moving to obtain approval of the report, and its consequent transmittal to the Office of the Surgeon General as outlined here, was to provide us with the answer that we need.

Mr. MacGregor indicated that on pages 1 and 9 of the report it would be desirable to insert a statement which would say that regardless of the lead alkyl used in gasoline, all the lead contained in the gasoline eventually finds its way to the atmosphere. He feels that the report may now leave an implication that more total lead would reach the atmosphere if X-105A were used than is the case with TEL. (Mr. MacGregor discussed this point at some length which leads the writer to suspect that possibly the public relations aspects of a new lead antiknock may be a major factor in California's failure to reach a decision as to marketing of X-105A.)

On page 5 (middle of the page) Mr. MacGregor indicated that the sentence-- "Instructions provided by the Kettering Laboratory were applied by a supervisor in the Garage" should be made more specific. He felt that this left the impression that the instructions might have been applied by an ordinary garage foreman or a leader mechanic.

In the parenthetical statement in the third sentence on page 9, there is a typographical error. It should read approximately 2.04 ml per gallon instead of 2.44.

Some of the people in California Research had some reservation about the necessity for, and wording of, the footnote on page 10. After some discussion Mr. MacGregor agreed that this footnote was alright as it stood.

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He felt that on page 11 under "Environmental Conditions" it should be pointed out that the periods of peak lead concentration in the garage corresponded also to a time of day at which a number of parked vehicles were being started. These vehicles would certainly contribute to the particulate lead in the atmosphere.

On page 25 under "Discussion" Mr. MacGregor indicated that Mr. Spence of California's Medical Department had questioned the statement "There is an apparent contradiction in the environmental and physiological results, however, which must be examined." Mr. MacGregor indicated that he understood what was intended here and saw no need for a change.

Mr. MacGregor asked whether we in Detroit would agree to the changes that he proposed, and the writer told him that we would not object. He then asked whether we would wish to transmit the proposed changes to Dr. Kehoe. I suggested that it would be desirable for him to transmit them directly. This he said he would do after consulting with Mr. Sabina. Mr. MacGregor indicated that he hoped after his telephone conversation with Dr. Kehoe there would be agreement that Dr. Kehoe should take the report to the Surgeon General's Office as had been planned during previous meetings. He said further that, barring some unforeseen circumstance, there would be no necessity for a meeting in San Francisco to discuss the report. He has agreed to let us know what action is being taken by Dr. Kehoe.

Harold J. Gibson
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