



Lead Industries Association, Inc.

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Environmental Health Department

February 19, 1982

TO: Official Members
LIA Environmental Health Committee

FROM: Rosalind Volpe - Research Associate, Environmental Health

SUBJECT: Lead in Gasoline

On February 18, 1982, the Environmental Protection Agency stated that it would consider relaxing or repealing its rule that large oil refiners limit the amount of lead they add to gasoline. Comments on the rescission or several possible modifications of the standard will be received for 60 days, and public hearings are scheduled for March 23 and March 24. The agency also proposed to suspend indefinitely the October 1, 1982 deadline by which small refiners now subject to less rigorous lead standards would have to meet the half-gram limit. A 30-day comment period was specified for this proposal. The Lead Industries Association will be actively participating during these comment periods.

Sincerely,

Rosalind Volpe
Research Associate,
Environmental Health

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Enclosure

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THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1982

U.S. May Repeal Rules Limiting Lead in Gasoline

By ROBERT D. HERSHEY Jr.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18 — The Environmental Protection Agency said today that it would consider relaxing or repealing its rule that large oil refiners limit the amount of lead they add to gasoline on the ground that the pollution-control measure was becoming outmoded.

Lead improves the performance of gasoline in an engine, but because it is a

dangerous pollutant, the Government has required that big refiners limit the amount of lead that may be added to each gallon to one-half gram.

The agency acted in response to a request last year by the Vice President's Task Force on Regulatory Reform that it reconsider its rules in light of the sharp rise in the use of unleaded fuel.

Since 1975, all new automobiles have been required to have catalytic converters to reduce pollution. Unleaded gasoline, which must be used in cars that

have catalytic converters because they are easily fouled by lead, now accounts for 52 percent of gasoline consumption.

Hearings Scheduled in March

"Within four to six years, even if there were no standard for lead in gasoline, the growth in unleaded gasoline usage would result in total usage of lead antiknock additives equal to the level of usage under current regulatory controls," the environmental agency said.

Comments on the rescission or several possible modifications of the standard will be received for 60 days, and public hearings are scheduled for March 23 and March 24.

Environmental groups responded angrily to the agency initiative.

"If the Reagan Administration has its way, an old environmental hazard that caused brain damage, retardation and learning disabilities in young children will reappear," said Clarence M. Ditlow 3d, director of the Center for Auto Safety. "Raising the present limits on lead in gasoline will not only prevent many of these children from getting below the danger level, but will cause lead poisoning among children to rise toward the common problem it was in the 1960's."

Eric Goldstein of the Natural Resources Defense Council said, "The Administration is playing Russian roulette with the public health of American children."

Awaiting Public Comment

Spokesmen for the environmental agency stressed that the review of its half-gram standard, which was established under the Clean Air Act of 1970, did not yet constitute an actual proposal, which will not be made until after public comment has been received.

However, the agency did propose today to suspend indefinitely the Oct. 1 deadline by which small refiners now subject to less rigorous lead standards

would have to meet. Small refiners, as those refining less than 1 million gallons a year, are currently limited to 1 cent to 7 percent of gasoline.

The permissible amount of lead in gasoline is from 1/16 of a gram per gallon to 2 1/2 grams per gallon.

A 30-day comment period was announced for this proposal.

Use of 2

WASHINGTON — Environmental groups are reversing an earlier position and announced Wednesday that they will take no action to force the agency to take action on lead and diethylhexylamine.

Formaldehyde, a common product, ranging from toothpaste to DE plastic products, plastic plants and plastic products.

Evidence was presented that the mental agency both chemicals and toxic animals. U.S. is required to restrict chemicals it whether the risk chemical should be restricted.

Last April, the agency sent a draft rule to refiners, but they have begun to sue the agency. Howard Gorsuch ordered the agency to stop.

In a memorandum this month Dr. Robert M. Anderson, the agency's assistant administrator, said the agency was considering drafts "incomplete" and "beginning any

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