

*These were not cases, but the report was made by telephone
then later on this morning, because of doubt
concerning the status of the cases involved. RTH*

Mr. J. O. Balzer
Mr. J. W. Emery

Mr. E. R. Fleck

New York

H. K. Ball

Tulsa

The Texas Company
Galveston, Texas

November 24, 1952

Dear Van:

We are attaching hereto a report from Bill Dixon regarding the leaded tanks that were sold by The Texas Company to an equipment company without notifying the Ethyl Corporation. These tanks in turn were eventually sold to two different oil companies and were cleaned by a contractor with no protective equipment other than rubber boots. Very fortunately the exposure period was not very long and two weeks following the cleaning the men showed no ill effects. Incidentally, this was discussed on November 13 with Dr. Kehoe at which time he was given all the facts. The men are being indirectly checked again this week to make certain they are still in good condition. Upon Dr. Kehoe's recommendations we made absolutely certain that these men would not be subject to additional exposure.

Mr. Emery got in touch with the equipment company involved who apparently did not know there was any cleaning taking place. Judging from Mr. Emery's comments in the attached report the equipment company was not aware of a lead hazard. In preliminary discussions with The Texas Company Mr. Newman was told that instructions had gone along with the contract indicating that the tanks were not to be used for edible service because they had contained lead.

A complete report will be furnished you upon completion of our contact with The Texas Company at Houston.

Yours very truly,

H. K. Ball
H. K. BALL

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Attachments

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Mr. H. K. Ball

Tulsa

J. Wallace Emery

Dallas

Gene Hill Equipment Company

November 17, 1952

Dear Hank:

Mr. Schell requested me to make a call in Fort Worth regard some secondhand gasoline tanks which The Texas Company at Houston sold recently. Apparently our information on the subject was not very complete. The Equipment company involved was reported to be Glen Hill, but actually the company is Gene Hill Equipment Co., 1920 East Lancaster St., Fort Worth, Texas. Mr. Hill told me that he had purchased several tanks from The Texas Company at Houston but that so far as he knew no cleaning of the tanks was involved. Some of the tanks were re-sold directly from Houston and others of them were moved to Fort Worth where at least part still are on hand. So far as I could determine no lead hazard was involved.

Mr. Hill and his company are thoroughly familiar with our precautions against entering tanks which have contained leaded gasoline and regard the use of such tanks for storage of edible products. I contacted this company several years ago regard hazards involved in such tanks and left copies of our literature on this subject. They have been re-contacted once or twice and I recall that Mr. Hill telephoned me from Ft. Worth regard a leaded tank problem. He told me today that they refused to sell tanks which have contained leaded gasoline if they think they are destined for storage of edible products and that the invoice of every sale carried warnings identical to our stencils regard such storage and regard tank entry. Moreover, he said they have stencils bearing these warnings and generally label each tank. I am convinced that this company cooperates with us in every way that could be expected. Mr. Hill told me that he has avoided putting men into gasoline tanks for any purpose and that he does not plan to do so in the future. He has agreed again, however, to notify us in case he should find it necessary for a tank entry.

I presume that the above information should be sufficient for the Houston incident, but if there is anything further I can do, please advise.

Very truly yours,

/s/

J. WALLACE EMERY

JWE:as

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Mr. J. O. Balzer

Houston

W. S. Dixon

Houston

Texas Company Tanks
Galveston, Texas

November 14, 1952

Dear Mr. Balzer:

We were advised on November 11, through R. R. Russell, Russell Oil Co., San Antonio, Texas, that two tanks originally owned by The Texas Co. at Galveston had been sold and were in the process of being dismantled.

Upon investigation on November 12 it was found that these tanks, located at 13th and Water Streets in Galveston, had been cleaned and that one had been totally dismantled and moved to the Danahoe Refinery at Pettus, Texas. The other had been purchased by Russell and was to be moved to San Antonio.

The contractor on the job is J. H. Gouch, Box 212, Three Rivers, Texas who will also reerect the tanks. He and two of his employees, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] apparently entered and cleaned the tanks about October 30. Total time spent in cleaning was about three hours during which time the men were in and out of the tanks. No protective equipment other than rubber boots was used. Sludge was handled in buckets and piled on the ground about 30 feet from the tanks. The men involved have worked every day since their exposure. All the men were observed during this investigation and apparently suffered no ill effects. Another man, [REDACTED] has worked on the tanks but was not involved in the cleaning.

A lead-in-air test made in the remaining tank indicated only a trace of lead in the atmosphere. There was some water and foamite on the floor which had been used in gas freeing the tank after it was cleaned. There was a small amount of non-adherent sludge on the floor but practically none above the bottom angle.

The tanks had capacities of 5800 and 2400 bbls., the latter being the one that is still standing. The smaller is identified by the number 16770. Their construction is unusual in that each tank is actually two tanks, one inside the other and having a common roof. Each set of tanks has two floors, one separated from the other by about one inch of asphalt. According to the contractor there were no apparent leaks in the floors or walls of the tanks.

The tanks have been inactive for several years but were stripped of product in February of this year. As nearly as can be determined they

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were originally sold to the Gene Hill Equipment Co. of Fort Worth and then resold to R. R. Russell. Russell then sold the tanks to Danaho and then bought the smaller tank back.

It was arranged with the contractor that all cutting on the remaining tank was to be done from the outside and that the entire floor is to be scraped to bright metal before any cutting is done. In addition the bottom ring is to be scraped before being trucked to San Antonio. The sludge is to be buried. The bottom and bottom ring of the tank in Pettus is to be scraped clean before any welding is done.

A final report will be written when this job is complete.

Very truly yours,

/s/

W. S. Dixon

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