

March 30, 1961

Harold J. Magnuson, M.D.
Chief, Division of Occupational Health
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Public Health Service
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Harold:

I am sending three copies of an Interim Report on the results to date of an investigation of the potential hazards of exposure to lead in connection with the use of tetramethyllead. You will remember, no doubt, that the industries concerned (in this instance Ethyl Corporation, duPont, and Standard of California) were advised to carry out an investigation and were requested to report to the Surgeon General at the end of a year. We initiated this investigation in May and have continued it since; it will continue into June. At this time we shall prepare a complete report, including the clinical data and a more complete presentation of other information.

This report is being made at this time because of the interest of the industries in working out with the military people in the Pentagon, specifications which will permit the use of tetramethyllead. At a recent conference in the Pentagon the request was made that an interim report be made of our observations on the West Coast, and we have obliged by putting this one together.

In view of changes that have taken place in the organization of the P.H.S., I am not sure just where this report should go, or in what numbers it might be found to be useful. I consider it likely, however, that there may be some inquiry from the Pentagon of the Service, and in any case your people should be fully informed of everything that transpires in this connection. I am sure you will not object to seeing that these get to the proper place. If other copies are wanted, please let me know, and I will send them to you or to the persons you designate. I suspect that Dr. Prindle and Mr. MacKenzie would like to see this report. I can supply a reasonable number, although considering the shortness of the time until the final observations will be made, I have not had many of them prepared.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

RAK:ss

Enclosure: 3 copies of report