

September 25, 1961

Air Mail

L. E. Curtis, M.D., Medical Director
Standard Oil Company of California
225 Bush Street
San Francisco 20, California

Dear Curt:

I am sorry indeed, that we were not sufficiently detailed and specific in our preliminary discussions and plans, with respect to the medical examinations of the personnel involved in the present field investigation, so as to arrive at a common view of the problem and procedure. I must have been at fault in the matter, and I must have made too many assumptions concerning our mutual understanding of the program.

I am even sorrier, if we cannot correct this misunderstanding in terms of the conduct of the medical work, for such a situation would mean that our report of the investigation will be somewhat less than completely satisfactory.

What I have had in mind from the first, with reference to the medical examinations, is an initial medical survey of the personnel, which would serve as a base line for an equally detailed survey at the end of a year (actually it is somewhat more than a year), so that we can make comparisons man for man. There will be of course, certain items of information on the initial medical record that need not be repeated (e.g., age, etc.), but the medical observations and the usual run of laboratory findings should be repeated in detail.

I sincerely hope this is feasible, for our report will be defective in a very important sense if it is not. The question of the deleterious effects of the exposure to TML (which we believe to be answered) should be investigated in a manner that demonstrates the existence of a completely open mind on this score. The matter has to be documented to prove (1) that we have looked carefully for such effects, and (2) to document the facts.

Please let me know the extent to which this can be and will be achieved.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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