

*Sp. to
Plant Manager
Plant Supt for
their wife
Safety
Industrial Division*

J. Joyce/M. Waterbury

E. W. Smith

AK McMillan
November 12, 1973

NIOSH Survey

Employee Relations

Corporate Safety

cc: J. F. Realy

The attached letter was given to me by one of my students in a Penn State OSHA class in Reading and I thought it may be of interest to you. There is quite a story behind it and the following is a summary as it was given to me.

The company involved is of medium size and has four (4) plants in the United States; they manufacture storage batteries. Due to their product line, they have a very large amount of lead melting, plating and related activities.

Their plant in Kentucky was contacted by the center for disease control, National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health for permission to conduct a survey of their workers using blood sampling techniques. These tests were to be collected by the Human Performance Laboratory of the University of Louisville under a grant from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The battery company refused to grant permission for these tests.

The University of Louisville then contacted the Union, who in turn made the survey known to its membership. The University set up shop in a local fire company and paid each worker in this plant \$20 to take a blood test. Of course, at this price they had quite a turn out. A second blood sample was also requested and used as a confirmation of the first findings. Some of the people who submitted to the first test did not appear for the second and this prompted the attached letter. As a result of this letter, the entire plant as well as a good portion of the small community in which the plant is located, is in quite a state of unrest.

The man who gave me the letter is from middle management and stated that it was his opinion that if the company had cooperated with NIOSH, letters of this type would not have gone out to the individuals, but would have been submitted to the plant manager. He also stated that NIOSH would like to enter the plant to take airborne samples; he did not know what decision has been made by senior management.

RECEIVED

NOV 28 1973

A. K. McMILLAN

AP00054555

November 12, 1973

NIOSH Survey

J. Boyce/R. Waterbury

Employee Relations

H. W. Smith

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As you can see, this type of letter is trouble and NIOSH will go to great lengths to obtain data. In this case, it appears that this company did not use good judgment in not cooperating with the NIOSH request.

b1c
enclosure

AP00054556



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL

October 24, 1973

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL
SAFETY AND HEALTH
U.S. POST OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

~~REDACTED~~

~~REDACTED~~

During the course of a study currently being conducted for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health by the Human Performance Laboratory, University of Louisville, concerning the effects on behavioral performance of inorganic lead, you did not provide our contractor with a second, confirmatory blood sample.

The results of your single blood lead sample indicate a value in excess of 80 ug/100 g of blood. This test should be repeated in order to confirm its validity. On face value, a blood lead value such as yours indicates at least excessive absorption of lead with possible danger of chronic lead poisoning.

We would highly recommend that you contact your private physician for a confirmatory test or we shall be happy to correspond with the physician of your choice if you supply us his name.

Sincerely yours,

William S. Lainhart

William S. Lainhart, M.D.
Deputy Associate Director
for Cincinnati Operations

AP00054557



COMMITTED TO SAFETY
WORLD WIDE

1/13/80

cc:
TJR
DRE
UJS

AEG/RET

Much to my concern J Novak has unilaterally responded to the attached without involvement of my staff. I have asked for a copy of the letter of which only REF Fleming was copied according to John.

This type of situation continues with John if he must learn to utilize the organization chart. I discussed this personally with John on 1/11/80 when I discussed his actions.
Ray

T. J. REGAN, JR.

R. L. Duggan

Who should handle
the attached

12/28/79

Roy

I have some info relative to
the sub. Will discuss with
you Thurs.

Bill 12/31

Tom -

12/27/79

I don't think
I should answer
this. A reply
certainly should
come from a
higher level. Do
you agree -
Don