

me and my reply

COPY

FRANCIS M. POTTENGER, JR., M.D.

609 North Canyon Boulevard

Monrovia, California

November 25, 1953

Dr. K. V. Kitzmiller

Dear Doctor Kitzmiller:

I greatly appreciate your letter of November 17, 1953, which arrived in time for the meeting of our Smog Committee on November 19. I was very much interested in reading the relative lead concentrations in the group of individuals who have worked at the Ethyl Terminal in Wilmington and especially the fact that they had worked there for over five years.

One of the real concerns of our Committee is this: We have been told that between 10 and 12 tons of lead are emitted daily in this area through the burning of tetraethyl in our fuels. It has been reported to us that there seem to be certain characteristics noted in individuals, particularly children, living along major highways on the windward side. There is no evidence, however, that this is a serious detriment to health, but cyanosis and other pigmentary changes are evident.

We are anxious to know whether lead in toxic amounts are present in the atmosphere, particularly at street levels, during the congested traffic periods.

It would certainly be a privilege to have the staff at Kettering Laboratory make such studies. As a Committee we are not in a position to finance such studies at this time. However, an over-all Committee in Los Angeles has recently been formed for the study of smog, consisting of a membership of 80 leading citizens, representing all branches of business, industry, professions, and home owners. I am sure such studies as you would make would be of interest to this group. Our Committee by vote at the meeting of November 19, asked me to report these facts to you and that they would be very glad to refer to the Research Committee of the Los Angeles County Medical Association a request for sufficient funds to support your work.

Copies of the analyses will be forwarded to you at once.

Sincerely,

N 6168

FMP/rc

/s/ Francis M. Pottenger, Jr., M.D.
Chairman, Smog Committee
Los Angeles County Medical Assoc.

November 17, 1953

Dr. Francis M. Pottenger, Jr.
Chairman, Smog Committee
609 North Canyon Blvd.
Monrovia, California

Dear Doctor Pottenger:

Dr. Robert Kehoe is now out of the country and will not be back in the laboratory before December 5.

I am sure that he will want to answer your letter in detail after he returns, but inasmuch as the next meeting of the Association Smog Committee is on Thursday, November 19, I thought I might reply in part to your inquiry concerning studies of concentrations of lead in the Los Angeles atmospheres.

I know of no studies of air pollution in the area that have been carried out by the Staff of Kettering Laboratory. However, I am sure that such studies could be made on invitation by your Committee.

As to studies relating to concentrations of lead in the excreta of exposed individuals we have no comprehensive information except for a small group of workers at the Ethyl Terminal in Wilmington, where analyses of samples of their blood and urine are carried out periodically.

I enclose a series of these results for your information. It is apparent that the concentrations in both blood and urine fall well within the normal range and that there has been no increase in concentration of lead in the urine or blood of any of these workers over a period of five years (1949-1953).

Sincerely yours,

KVK:vr

K. V. Kitzmiller, M.D.

Encl.

P.S.

We would appreciate your returning the copies of these analyses when you have finished with them.

KVK