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Boston, Mass. June 13, 1940

Mr. Oscar B. Lewis

Dear Oscar:

When Doctor Schradin and the writer visisted the Richfield plant in Providence, we learned that a tank was to be cleaned some time in the future. Dr. Schradin suggested that we send a complete report of this tank cleaning to yourself with a copy to Dr. Kehoe. This cleaning was supervised by Mr. Fred Meeder of the Baytonne terminal.

The tank in question has been in leaded gasoline service for some time, and was cleaned either one year or two years ago. At that time we were not notified of this cleaning and were therefore not present.

It was necessary to gas free the tank in order to put a new seal around the floating roof. It so happens that this tank is located near a coke plant and considerable dust had settled down around the edges of the tank on the bottom ring.

The seals were removed to gas free the tank and after this men were permitted to go inside and remove this coke dust. They were standing immediately under the opening between the roof and the side of the tank. The roof, of course, was in bottom position and the opening was just above the heads of the men. Mr. Meeder did not deem it necessary to have the men wear hoseline masks (blower type) as he felt that they were getting adequate ventilation. We pointed out that we wouldn't take the responsibility of sending a man in the tank without the proper airline equipment, and he agreed that in case the sludge was removed, airline equipment would be used. We stayed on this job for two days to see whether or not he would remove the sludge during the subsequent operations. After making several gas tests throughout the tank from the top, it was found unnecessary to remove this sludge, and a water bottom was put in. It was then considered safe for the men to work on top with cutting welding equipment.

Several times during the removal of the dogs and the shoes of the old seal, it was necessary for the men to go inside of the tank. Mr. Meeder considered the tank was well ventilated, and that the men did not need airline masks for this operation.

We are passing this along for your information.

Very truly yours,
M. A. Taylor