

Mr. A. C. Tully

Atlanta

Mr. O. B. Lewis - Locher

New York

General American Tank Storage Terminals
Good Hope, Louisiana

November 28, 1945

Mr. Westfall of the above company's New York office called me several weeks ago requesting Ethyl's assistance in the preparation of certain tanks at their terminal at Good Hope to enable them to store edible oils.

From his conversation I gathered that there are several tanks involved, some of which have contained leaded gasoline for a short period of time only. As an approach to the problem, he was to send samples of the material now stored in these tanks to Dr. Kehoe for analysis. From this analysis the next step would be determined.

The samples were sent, but unfortunately they were sent in tin cans rather than chemically clean glass containers. Dr. Kehoe wrote Mr. Westfall on November 7th, and a copy of his letter is attached. After receiving this letter, Mr. Westfall again called me, and as a result of this conversation, I told him that we would assist them in taking appropriate samples. In order to pave the way, he has written the Manager of their terminal at Good Hope, Mr. G. J. Cassard, and a copy of this letter of November 21st is also attached.

At your convenience will you have someone call on Mr. Cassard, developing this problem in greater detail, and if it appears that sampling of the product is indicated, arrange to have the appropriate samples taken and shipped directly to Dr. Kehoe.

In view of the information in Dr. Kehoe's letter to Mr. Westfall, it would be well to correspond with Dr. Kehoe directly, after you have analyzed the problem. We should appreciate copies of your correspondence.

O. B. LEWIS

Elli K. Locher
By:

REL:LT
Att. (2)

KE 0006373

N 7699

November 7, 1945

Y
Mr. Howard Westfall
Eastern Manager
General American Tank Storage Terminals
50 West 50th Street
New York City 20

Dear Mr. Westfall:

Please refer to your letter of October 26 addressed to Mr. E. K. Locher of Ethyl Corporation concerning certain samples of materials taken from various tanks at your Good Hope, Louisiana terminal.

The samples indicated have been received, but examination of them indicates that the results of their analysis might well be misleading and have no relation to the problem in which you are interested. The reason is that these samples apparently have been sent to you interneplate cans. It is very likely that the materials, especially the water, will have attacked the metal surface, dissolving some of the lead therein and being contaminated thereby to such an extent that the lead content of the material in the tanks will not be portrayed. Any samples obtained for this purpose should be taken in chemically clean glass containers, with every precaution against contamination of the material by its collection in any intermediate container.

It is my opinion that it would be wise for us to supply the necessary containers after an exchange of correspondence with your people at Good Hope directly, whereby we may learn the details of the problem that is to be solved and can give suitable instructions for an approach to it. As you are probably aware, it is not always easy at a distance to understand just what is desired and to have a clear basis of understanding as to the manner of collecting materials for examination. It is much better that such things be worked out directly rather than through an intermediary, since the opportunities for misunderstanding are numerous. The analyses represent a considerable outlay of technical skill, which is entirely without point unless the samples have been properly collected. This instance is a case in point. We should be wasting our time and misleading you if we were to analyze the present samples.

It is my understanding that you are considering the storage of certain edible oils in tanks that have previously been used for the storage of leaded gasoline. If this is your problem, there will be no advantage in analyzing such things as benzol, water and lube oil. Moreover in order to determine whether any material introduced into one of these tanks has been contaminated we shall have to know its lead content before its introduction. For example, the lead content of lube oil may be considerable under any conditions. A mere analysis will not serve to tell us or you anything about the source of lead. Therefore, we shall require "before and after" samples. On the whole, therefore, it will be best if we understand just what you are attempting to do, in which case we shall be able to give you intelligent assistance.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

KE 0006874

GENERAL AMERICAN TANK STORAGE TERMINALS
A Division of General American Transportation Corporation
50 WEST 50TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.
H. WESTFALL

November 21, 1945

MR. G. J. CASSARD

GOODHOPE

Dear George,

In reply to your letter of November 15th about the progress being made by the Ethyl Corporation in connection with samples taken from tanks at Goodhope which previously contained Ethyl gasoline, I am attaching a copy of Dr. Robert A. Kehoe's letter of November 7th.

From this letter it is apparent we made a mistake in sending the samples to the laboratory interneplate cans, as such cans are coated with lead instead of tin, which is the case in ordinary so called tin cans. As a result, there is bound to be some lead pickup from the can which is the particular fact we are trying to determine about the samples.

It is therefore essential that samples be taken in clean glass bottles with no intermediate metal containers.

I have talked to Mr. E. K. Locher of the Ethyl Corporation here about the situation and we have reached the conclusion that perhaps the best way of handling this situation is to have one of their engineers present to supervise the taking of the samples. Mr. Locher advises they will have a man in the Goodhope area in the near future and we will appreciate your giving him your usual good cooperation.

Meanwhile, Dr. Kehoe will be in New York today and we may develop some other information that is of interest.

Very truly yours,

/s/ H. Westfall

HW:MS

CC: Mr. J. S. Selig, Chicago
Mr. F. J. Plattner, Carteret

Mr. E. K. Locher
Ethyl Corporation

KE 0006875