

AUTO-LITE BATTERY CORPORATION

VINCENNES DIVISION

VINCENNES, INDIANA

October 14th, 1949

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe, Director
Kettering Laboratory of Applied Physiology
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

Perhaps you will remember my visiting your Laboratory last spring when you were kind enough to give me an interview or consultation in regard to lead hazards in battery plants.

We recently acquired an electrostatic precipitator for the collection of air samples in the plant. The few samples that we have run so far, we have run simultaneously with a sample obtained by the impinger method of collection. Of course, the electrostatic samples are comparatively higher than the impinger method showing about a 90% increase. This is particularly true in collecting in departments where one might expect lead fumes. In your report on Occupational Lead Exposure and Lead Poisoning published in 1943 by the American Public Health Association, on Page 17 your discussion of Safe Limit of an Occupational Lead Exposure, you state that "When the air of work rooms regularly contains not more than 1.5 mg. of lead per 10 cu. m. of air as measured by standard methods", I would like to know what the standard methods were in determining this level.

It seems to me that if the impinger type method was used to arrive at this figure, that if an electrostatic precipitator had been used, it may have collected more lead from the atmospheres that were tested to arrive at the above conclusion.

Please let me know if the standard methods referred to used the impinger type or the electrostatic precipitator to collect the air samples.

I might say, we have been exceedingly fortunate in not having any clinically apparent cases of lead absorption or lead poisoning since our initial outbreak right after the plant was opened. I am trying to have air analyses done and make suggestions where indicated to try to keep the lead concentration respectably low. The electrostatic precipitator however, is evidently much more efficient in collecting the lead from the atmosphere and the values of lead in the air are relatively high since using the precipitator.

I want to thank you again for your kindness and trust that you are enjoying good health.

Sincerely yours,

J. R. Albrecht
PLANT PHYSICIAN