

Mr. L. A. Fleck

New York

Mr. A. J. Baldwin

New York

Airline Hose Equipment
Lead-in-Air Tests

June 21, 1954

Dear Van:

Today, Bob Rixton and I ran several lead-in-air tests on the four lengths of air line hose picked up from Carl Hitchcock. This will supplement my previous report and confirm my telephone talk with you following the tests.

1. We took a sample of air through one length of the hose, using Bob's blower and it showed between 10 and 15 micrograms. We then washed the hose with cold water. At first the water came out very dirty but eventually cleaned out until the water appeared quite clean. The hose was then allowed to lie in the sun on the driveway for about 45 minutes and another air sample taken. This time it showed a color strength of nearly 25 micrograms. We covered the outlet opening with several layers of dust filter gauze but we still got a reading between 20 and 25.

2. We sampled the air passing through one length of hose showing a bad break through the outer covering exposing the metal wire woven into it. This showed about 20 micrograms.

3. We sampled the air through another length of hose and it also showed about 20 micrograms.

The hose tested under items 2 and 3 were sent to Dr. Kitzmiller via express, collect.

The length of hose not tested and the two lengths tested under items 1 and 3 were in good condition and I would not have hesitated to approve them for tank cleaning use. The length of service of this hose is not definitely known but I will try to find out this week.

Two lengths of hose have been retained by Bob to wait for instructions for their disposition. This will probably depend on what Dr. Kitzmiller finds and advises.

In addition to the above report and a previous report from George O'Connell on a test he made, we now have one from Don Forsdick.

Last Saturday, Don tested the hose in use by another tank cleaning contractor at the Gulf Oil Corporation plant in Wiverton, Rhode Island. He reported a reading off the scale of our lead-in-air analyzer. They were going to wash the hose by circulating soapy water with a pump from

Mr. L. R. Fleck

-2-

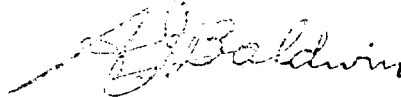
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a tub through the hose and back to the tub. It would then be thoroughly flushed with fresh water. At this writing, I do not have a report from him on his success in cleansing the hose.

These three isolated cases cannot be coincidence and contaminated within the last two or three weeks.- Also, it does not seem to me that this can be lead we are picking up or we would have some sick men after breathing air with the indicated lead concentration for several hours.

I hope we can determine rather speedily what this is that we are picking up and if it is lead, some rather prompt steps must be taken to correct the situation throughout all Regions.

Very truly yours,



A. J. Baldwin

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