

RG 90 USPHS Box 88

File 0875-96

2021 General

September 9, 1936

Dr. John W. Finch, Director,
U. S. Bureau of Mines,
900 F St., N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Finch:

I am advised that an investigation was carried out by the Bureau of Mines some years ago on methanol, in which the Public Health Service cooperated to some extent. I understand that the report on this investigation has not been published.

The Public Health Service is receiving many inquiries as to this work and as to when the report can be made available. I will appreciate it if you will let me know the status of the report and the probability of its being available for publication.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Thomas Parrow
Surgeon General

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November 20, 1936.

The Honorable,
The Attorney General of the United States.

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

Reference is made to your letter of November 12, 1936, requesting information with regard to the health regulations governing the sale of gasoline containing tetraethyl lead. It is my understanding that you desire this information for use in connection with (an investigation of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation now being conducted by your Department.)

The Treasury Department wishes to extend its cooperation in this matter in every way possible. It is believed, however, that there are several important factors which should be given consideration before a full disclosure is made of all the Treasury Department records bearing on this case.

The Public Health Service has received complete cooperation from the companies handling gasoline containing tetraethyl lead and this was secured with the understanding that we would keep confidential the information given. The interest of the Public Health Service has been a scientific one to obtain information looking to the protection of the health of the handlers and users of Ethyl gasoline. Without such an understanding it would have been impossible to have secured the information necessary to formulate regulations to protect the public from this hazard. Based on the studies made, recommendations for the protection of the health of persons handling tetraethyl lead gasoline were made by the Public Health Service and put into effect by the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation. It is believed that if such confidential information is disclosed, the cooperation which the Public Health Service has heretofore received from industrial concerns will no longer be extended. Consequently, such future scientific studies will be materially prejudiced by the lack of necessary factual information upon which to base recommendations for safeguarding workers and the public against various new toxic substances.

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I believe that we can give you all of the information which will be of use to your Department in conference with your representatives. Dr. Sayers or other Public Health Service officers familiar with this matter will hold themselves in readiness to cooperate fully in this way.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Wayne C. Taylor

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

RRS:CDW