

1947
I feel sure
we can interpret
this case

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

55 Shattuck Street
Boston 15, Massachusetts

March 5, 1947

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
Kettering Laboratory
University of Cincinnati
College of Medicine
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Bob:

Every now and then my good friends, American Smelting and Refining Company, have a claim against them for lead poisoning. They are in the lead smelting business and have a very large smelter at Alton, Illinois, under the management of Mr. Luther J. Buck.

We have established routine urinalyses which are made from spot samples taken under supervision in the shower room when the men are finished with their shift. Lead-free containers are used and the specimens sent to our Hygiene Laboratory at Salt Lake City where they are analyzed. Check analyses are run from time to time by other laboratories such as U. S. Public Health Service at Bethesda, and Massachusetts Division of Occupational Hygiene, so that all precautions within reason are being taken to assure us of our accuracy. Controls on non-exposed people are run with each sample.

In the event of a suspected case of compensable lead poisoning the men would be hospitalized at or near Alton and a 24-hour specimen taken. Our lab would do an aliquot which we would then offer in evidence, but we would like to know if your lab would make such an occasional analysis, so that we could use your figure if ours is questioned. Your analyst might have to testify personally. We have no reason to think ours will be questioned, save for the fact that we would represent the defending company and might be accused of bias. I will assure you that there will be no argument about your accuracy versus ours -- if our figures are disallowed or our lawyers don't want to offer them in evidence we would use yours; but as a matter of pride we would naturally want to use our own data.

There would not be much of this, but I would like to know if you will help and under what terms. Please write me and send copy to Mr. Buck.

Sincerely yours,


Philip Drinker

PD/F

cc: Mr. L. J. Buck
Dr. J. H. Abersold

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