

me Sullivan

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DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

June 14, 1967

To: All Members of the LIA Health and Safety Committee

Re: State of California Report,
"Lead In The Environment And Its Effects On Humans"

The State of California's Department of Public Health has issued a report, "Lead In The Environment And Its Effects On Humans," which has not received public or press attention.

Most of the discussions of lead in the report is a review of existing and known literature. No new data or information is included.

Despite this, the report does make recommendations that steps be taken to prevent an increase of emissions of lead from gasoline and that studies be undertaken on the feasibility of reducing and/or eliminating lead additives from gasoline.

No specific recommendation is made for an ambient air lead standard for the State of California, although the report says one is needed as soon as possible.

A copy of the Recommendation page is attached. If it is desired to see the complete 81-page report, please direct your request to our office.

Very truly yours,

James C. Rousas, Jr.

James C. Rousas
Assistant Director
Health and Safety

JCR/jv
Attachment

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Look Ahead with Lead

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

A. The California State Department of Public Health should continue its research on the health consequences of lead stored in the body and proceed to set air quality criteria, guides, and standards for lead. Emphasis should be placed on studies to elucidate the biological effects of lead exposures on man. The U.S. Public Health Service should be encouraged to support such research in this State and elsewhere and to join with the Department to work on criteria and standards for lead.

1. Research on the effects of defined exposures of selected California populations should have first priority. This should include both adults and children, with determinations of blood and urine lead levels, levels of delta-aminolevulinic acid, other indices of altered porphyrin metabolism, red blood cell survival time, and other reactions.

2. Data are also needed on the extent to which atmospheric lead may be deposited on and absorbed from food in homes and restaurants, from field crops, and from the soil.

3. The State Department of Public Health should measure the concentration of atmospheric lead at the State network stations and conduct special studies of lead concentrations in areas of heavy traffic and in the proximity of lead-emitting industries.

B. In the interim, while the above is being accomplished, it is recommended that:

1. No further increase in the quantity of lead in gasoline should be allowed.

2. The U.S. Public Health Service or other Federal agencies should join with industry to study the feasibility of reducing and/or eliminating lead additives from gasoline.

3. Because expected increases in motor fuel use at present concentrations of additives will result in an overall increase in exposure, the State should study the feasibility and implications of a policy of preventing any increase in overall exposures to lead from motor vehicle emissions in California.

4. Each producer or blender of motor fuel sold in the State should provide the Department with data on concentrations and amounts of lead and other additives which have or may have health effects, such as nickel, manganese, alkyl halides, and phosphates.