



E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY
INCORPORATED
WILMINGTON 98, DELAWARE

ORGANIC CHEMICALS DEPARTMENT
PETROLEUM CHEMICALS DIVISION

July 3, 1961

Mr. D. L. Allen
Asst. General Traffic Manager
U. S. Dept. of the Interior
The Alaska Railroad
P. O. Box 7-2111
Anchorage, Alaska

Dear Mr. Allen:

Your letter of May 23 has been referred to me for handling. Generally, we recommend against converting containers that have been used for transportation of leaded gasoline into service for edible products destined for either animal or human consumption.

While we generally recommend against it, they can, by extremely thoroughly sandblasting, plus at times chemically flushing with acids, be made safe for such use. We cannot say that sandblasting and/or chemical cleaning will necessarily render them safe for such service, as we are in no position to know how thoroughly such work is done. Therefore, in the final analysis the only way to be sure that the decontamination has been adequate is to complete the cleaning, fill the container with the product to be handled, sampling and analyzing it to determine whether there is any significant lead contamination.

If you want additional information on this subject, we would refer you to the Kettering Laboratory of Applied Physiology, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, attention of Dr. Robert A. Kehoe. Dr. Kehoe is the outstanding authority in the country on matters of this kind.

Very truly yours,
B. G. CRANE

B. G. Crane
Manager of Operations

BGC:mlm

bcc: Dr. Robert A. Kehoe

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