

C O P Y

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH LABORATORIES

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Houston 3, Texas

Phone Capitol 7-5708

James H. Sterner, M.D., Medical Director
Eastman Kodak Company
343 State Street
Rochester, New York

November 9, 1955

Dear Sir:

Let me assure you that I do not recommend the prophylactic use of EDTA. I do not consider it a panacea for the Industrial Lead problem. I am acquainted with the feelings of Drs. Kehoe, Johnstone, Sterner, Shipman and Foreman in this matter and am also aware of recent work done at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory which casts doubt on the nontoxicity of EDTA. OHL recommends - "Install adequate exhaust ventilation at those positions where the workers show abnormally high lead values in urine or where the maximum allowable concentration in the air is constantly exceeded." OHL suggests treatment of workers with high urinary lead values (over .2 mgs. of lead per liter of urine, determined on a spot sample of adequate volume and specific gravity by a chemist with adequate experience and equipment; our urinary lead findings have been confirmed by the Industrial Hygiene Laboratory, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Texas). A complete physical examination, including urinalysis, should be performed on all workers to be treated with EDTA and followup examinations are necessary to determine the increase in urinary lead output (if any!), and to guard against renal damage from EDTA.

At the same time, it is essential to carry out air studies and to remove lead contamination from the air. We are fortunate to have on our staff, a Professional Industrial Hygiene Engineer, Mr. Munson H. Tix, who is extremely anxious to design for small industrial plants, adequate ventilation set-ups, to minimize occupational dust exposure. OHL strives to furnish a complete industrial hygiene service from the medical to the engineering. We have been most fortunate in having the help of Mr. Jim Hammond to get us started on the right track.

It was not possible for me to attend the last Gulf Coast Industrial Health Conference since it happened to coincide with my last manic spell during which I felt it necessary to start the lab and could not possibly have kept still long enough to have sat through a conference. It is rocking along well now for OHL, and I believe that after a 2-3 year sweating-out period, we shall become the leading Industrial Hygiene factor in the American Industrial Frontier - The Golden Gulf Coast.

I enjoyed hearing from you.

Sincerely,

N22159

/s/ William U. Giesel, M.D.