

July 22, 1953

Dr. A. P. MacCallum
Petrolia, Ontario, Canada

Dear Doctor MacCallum:

We are enclosing for your information and records, the analytical results for lead on the samples of blood and urine obtained from Mr. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The results would indicate that no lead had been absorbed by Mr. [REDACTED] at the time he was engaged in work within a gasoline storage tank during the previous few days.

Thank you very much for collecting these samples for us.

Sincerely yours,

LWS:vr

Lester W. Sanders, M.D.

Encl.

cc - Dr. R. A. Kehoe ✓

KE 0017300

Random comments on the tank cleaning as it was reported in the letter of Mr. Reni Barki of June 24, 1953.

If the men who worked in this tank wore air-hose masks (and it is not specifically stated whether or not they did, excepting on the last day or two of the tank cleaning as mentioned on page 3), they should have been safe even in a very high concentration of lead in air.

The mention of the 20 c.c. blend immediately suggests the question as to how this blend occurred and whether or not there was any previous knowledge on the part of any one in the Corporation of this blend and its transportation. If no knowledge was had of this blend, the reason for this lack of knowledge should be investigated.

Since definite procedures have been established for the routine handling of sludge, the question arises as to why individual judgment was used and a procedure which differed from the accepted usual procedure followed. The burning procedure, it seems to me, only complicates the picture requiring perhaps more handling and being very questionable in its effectiveness. If the T.E.L. was in water, it would have been at the bottom of the water and nothing effective would have been accomplished by the burning of stove or fuel oil on the top of the water. The oil, rather obviously, would simply have burned off, leaving the lead where it was originally and there would have been no effect in all probability on that lead resting at the bottom of the water.

When the original report of Mr. [REDACTED] illness was made to Mr. Lewis, it seems to me that Mr. Lewis was passing medical judgment as to whether or not the symptoms might have been due

to lead absorption. This is a matter that should have been referred to the Medical Department at once for judgment.

If there was reason to believe that high concentrations of lead were in the air outside the tank (there was some evidence of this as stated in the letter because of the strong odor of lead on the outside), the use of canister masks would be questionable even on the outside.

It appears that both Mr. Lewis and Mr. Barkl were using medical judgment and only in retrospect and after the fact referred the question to the proper department.

Although no specific instructions have been issued asking for the immediate reporting to the Medical Department of tanks which have unusual histories or proved to have unusual concentrations of lead, good judgment might have suggested such an immediate report. The situation suggests that the Medical Department issue instructions for the immediate reporting of unusual tanks when found.

Lester W. Sanders, M.D.

July 2, 1953