

CC Dr. R. A. Kehoe

ETHYL CORPORATION

MANUFACTURING AND TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

J. H. SCHAEFER
GENERAL MANAGER

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY
TO: CHRYSLER BUILDING
405 LEXINGTON AVE., NEW YORK CITY

December 15, 1942

Mr. J. L. Stecher
E. I. duPont de Nemours & Company
Room 7526 - Nemours Building
Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Mr. Stecher:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 4 regarding the thesis of Mr. T. I. Ortiz of Mexico City. Dr. Kehoe had told me he did not think too highly of the work done.

We too are wondering who the alleged Ethyl technician was who furnished the information. Certainly we would take the action you recommended if we could find the culprit. As a matter of fact, however, when I was in Mexico the alleged technician was supposed to have been from the duPont Company, but that is neither here nor there because you just can't find out anything specific.

With regard to the Belgian Plant, you may be interested to know that we have established a contact in Mexico with the man who is alleged to have run this operation and we are attempting to secure further particulars.

Very truly yours,

J. H. Schaefer

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December 4, 1942

E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY
Wilmington, Delaware

Organic Chemicals Department

Dear Mr. Schaefer:

Returned to you herewith is the thesis of Mr. T. I. Ortiz. We have read this report quite carefully and with considerable interest. It is obvious that we are not able to pass upon the accuracy of Mr. Ortiz' medical observations, but we presume that they are accurate. It is quite apparent that he has made a considerable study and has attempted to find explanations for the phenomena which are connected with acute lead intoxication caused by excessive exposure to tetraethyl lead. We would appreciate Dr. Kehoe's opinions concerning the medical side.

Some of the statements made in the introductory remarks were of considerable interest. We note that insofar as information has been gathered from the literature it is accurate. We are not quite so sure concerning the other historical data. We were rather surprised that the only mention made of the Du Pont Company's efforts in the manufacture of tetraethyl lead was the statement that the Du Pont Company had had several fatalities. This seems rather strange for a company which had never entered into the manufacture of the substance.

We are also wondering who was the Ethyl Corporation technician who furnished the information to Petroleos Mexicanos. Judging from the inaccuracy of the information which he supplied, he should be discharged.

The mention of a plant in Belgium struck us as interesting. We did not know that such a plant existed. We were also interested by the account of the difficulties which were encountered in the operation of the Mexican Plant. It is our opinion that these were to have been expected, after the description of the plant which occurred in a recent memorandum which you allowed us to read.

Very truly yours,

J. L. Stecher, Manager
Tetraethyl Lead Division

Per: A. E. Parmelee

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