

April 1, 1953

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. L. A. Lohman
Superintendent - Administrative
Wood River Refinery
Shell Oil Company
P. O. Box 262
Wood River, Illinois

Dear Mr. Lohman:

I send you herewith two copies of the analytical report on the sample of rust and scale which you forwarded to us recently.

You will note that the steam-distillable lead (which is that portion of the lead which was present as tetraethyl lead or as organic decomposition products of tetraethyl lead) was present only in a minute trace. This, from the hygienic viewpoint, as I indicated in my letter of March 12, is wholly insignificant, unless a very large quantity of the scale containing it were to be suspended in the atmosphere as a dust, in the course of a mechanical (scraping or sand-blasting) operation for the removal of the rust in a dry state.

The inorganic lead in this sample of scale is a bit higher than it is usually found to be, but it would not be a source of any danger at all under the conditions of exposure which you described, since this is not volatile and cannot get distributed into the atmosphere so long as it is wet.

I believe that this information, plus that in my letter of March 12 should answer all of your questions and those of your people, except for that which concerned the handling of their clothes.

Clothes contaminated with sludge which happened to be relatively high in its content of tetraethyl lead, might well be a source of hazard to anyone who had to handle it. However, if the clothing were handled with a reasonable degree of prudence and were cleaned promptly rather than being left to lie around the house, it should not give rise to any serious danger.

Clothing contaminated with dust containing inorganic lead compounds in low concentration cannot be regarded as a source of hazard to the housewife, laundress or any other person, under ordinary conditions of handling. It is conceivable that such dusty clothes handled daily and regularly in large volume, such as in a commercial laundry, would have to be handled with reasonable care to avoid suspending the dust in the atmosphere of the laundry. However, this is the worst situation that

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could be foreseen, and even it would be of no importance under conditions of ordinary, sensible, and reasonably cleanly handling.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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Enc.

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Material: Tank Scale
Submitted: 3-14-53 by Mr. L. A. Lonman, Superintendent-
Administrative, Wood River Refinery, Shell Oil
Company, P. O. Box 262, Wood River, Illinois
Required: Lead Analysis

TANK SCALE

Analysis Number	- 53A-1854
Steam Distillable Lead	- 0.0002%
Inorganic Lead	- 0.53%

Reported: 3-31-53

KE 0009756

Material: Tank Scale
Submitted: 3-14-53 by Mr. L. A. Lohman, Superintendent-
Administrative, Wood River Refinery, Shell Oil
Company, P. O. Box 252, Wood River, Illinois
Required: Lead Analysis

TANK SCALE

Analysis Number	- 53A-1854
Steam Distillable Lead	- 0.0002%
Inorganic Lead	- 0.53%

Reported: 3-31-53

KE 0009757