

Mr. E. O. Jones

New York

Mr. M.A.Taylor

New York

Wilmington North Carolina Accident

August 9, 1948

Dear Ollie:

I have your memorandum of August 6, 1948 regarding the Wilmington, North Carolina accident and of your desire to have a final report in the records on the whole affair.

I believe we should have a Regional statement to be included in this report and we will prepare such a statement just as soon as we possibly can.

I further agree that you should have Fritz Mercer's statements as part of the record. In this connection, I still feel that written statements similar to those obtained by Lou Shank from representatives of Tank Cleaners Inc. might be in order. Of course, if it would make sense to have Fritz Mercer come up here, we will do so. I do not know when this might be as I had hoped to go on a three weeks vacation the end of the current week. Possibly my plans can be changed. In any event we will advise you in ample time before Fritz Mercer does come to New York.

Very truly yours,



M. A. TAYLOR

MAT:gh

CC: DR. R. A. KEHOE

KE 0066695

N 7647

Mr. E. A. Taylor

New York

E. O. Jones

New York

Wilmington, North Carolina accident.

August 6, 1948

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Dear Matt:

As you know, the New York Safety Department has been requested by the sales management to pursue to a conclusion an investigation of the unfortunate occurrence at Wilmington, North Carolina. You and I have discussed this matter at great length, and it now appears that we have obtained all the facts available to us in view of the Law Department's desire that we abandon any further investigation in the field. It is possible, of course, that additional information may eventually come to hand as the result of any investigations that the various insurance companies may make, or by means of testimony if the accident becomes a subject of court proceedings.

The entire safety policy of the company is built upon meticulous care in the prevention of accidents that might result from exposure to tetraethyl lead or its decomposition products. The various statements now in our file contain certain direct contradictions and we would not be doing our job if we did not attempt to resolve them.

As I understand the situation now, you plan to call Fritz Mercer in at the end of his vacation to discuss this matter personally and to reiterate, if he cares to do so, the statements which he has made in his reports.

The Safety Department has an obligation to write a final report summarizing everything in connection with this accident, not only for the Corporation's records but for the assistance of the Medical Department, and for use as a basis for any revisions that seem indicated in our current instructions in order to prevent a recurrence.

I am writing this memorandum with the idea that you, as Operations Manager of the Eastern Region, in which the accident occurred, may wish to write a statement for the Region to be included in our report. At the moment, as you know, the file consists of a number of more or less disconnected statements from several people, and the Eastern Region's reports have never been consolidated into one statement. I would appreciate hearing from you as to whether you care to issue such a statement. Also, I would appreciate being informed when you plan to have Mercer in New York.

EOJ/AL

E. O. Jones

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