

December 22, 1923.

Mr. E. W. Webb,
c/o The Ethyl Gasoline Corp.,
25 Broadway,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Webb:

My assistant, Doctor Machle, has just returned from visiting various points in Pennsylvania and West Virginia at which we are doing mixing with the exception of Philadelphia, and he has brought back a report which I am giving you, and which I would like to have you call to the attention of Mr. Walter.

The conditions to which Doctor Bricker has made some objection are present, and in some cases are definitely objectionable. I will begin with the worst first. At Oil City, the mixing point of the Pennzoil Company, conditions are not at all good. The mistakes have been pointed out by Doctor Machle, and we have every assurance that they will be corrected, but in order to make sure that they are, I should like to have these matters called to the attention of the Department of Inspection, and I shall also send one of my assistants, in the very near future, to check up on them. The clothes at these points are quite inadequate, and have never been used at any time in the mixing of Ethyl Fluid with gasoline. Shoes have not been provided and as a consequence the men are wearing their usual work clothes and shoes in performing this work. The gas masks, some of which are provided, have never been used at any time for their seals have not even been disturbed. The men are to some extent unacquainted with the rules and their whole acquaintance of them being the result of one reading of them, and the rules are not posted at any point where they can be seen.

At the Waverly installation at Pittsburgh, and at the Sterling installation at Emlenton, conditions are all right so far as clothes and shoes are concerned. The rules, however, have not been posted at these points.

At all three of these points the platforms are small, somewhat too small I think, so that they do not allow storage, and they are not situated on railroad sidings, as a result it becomes necessary to truck drums to these points and store them, for the most part, on the ground and to raise them by means of skids on to the working platform as they are needed. L.C.L. deliveries are made to all of these points, and they are all by truck. Now I realize that it is not always possible to have everything ideal in the way of equipment. I realize that it is necessary at some points to send small quantities of fluid, to truck it if need be, and it is

KE 0001329

Mr. E. W. Webb.

December 22, 1926.

also necessary to economize to the utmost on the expense of installation at some of these points. It is unfortunate, however, in doing this we have somehow given the impression that the carrying out of the rules and regulations in other matters is not an absolute necessity. The matter of clothes, shoes and masks, is, of course, a matter of extreme importance, and these matters must be carefully looked after by our Department of Inspection as well as by my assistants. In this connection, there is one matter of great importance which I think should be rigidly carried out. Wherever Ethyl Gasoline inspectors perform the first mix for the workmen, they should equip themselves exactly in accordance with the rules and regulations, and should set a perfect example to the workmen as to exactly what to wear, as to the use of the gas masks in opening drums, and in performing every other routine act, otherwise I am sure men will get the impression that it is not necessary to carry out all of these rules, and the management is very likely to have the same idea. I understood when these things were reported to me exactly what Doctor Bricker meant in her letter to you and to me.

Doctor Machle has taken up all these matters with the management at these points, and has requested their immediate correction. I am also writing to Mr. Harvey, Superintendent at Oil City to further stress the necessity of doing these things at once. I Trust this will be all that will be necessary to get them to realize the necessity of carrying out instructions exactly as they have been given them.

There is another matter to which I would like to call your attention. It was found at Whiting on our last visit that the Standard Oil Company of Indiana had given orders for the analysis of all Ethyl Fluid which is mixed with gasoline at this point. The same is being done at Casper, Wyoming, and it is possible, although I do not know surely, that the same is being done at other points in the Indiana territory. I can understand the business reasons for wishing to do this, and I can understand too that there have been variations in the lead content of the Fluid, particularly in the case of Fluid which had been held for considerable periods of time. I am sure that the settling out of sludge, due to the decomposition of tetraethyl lead, would give rise to a lower percentage of lead in the Fluid, at any rate it has been considered advisable to analyse the Fluid. This has been done without consulting anybody connected with the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation, and of course, has been done for strictly business reasons. It has an unfortunate result, however, of exposing other men to hazards in the handling of tetraethyl lead in that the drums must be sampled and the Fluid taken to the laboratory for analysis. We were asked at Whiting to examine two chemists for this purpose. Naturally we were not in position to refuse to do so, and yet I regard this as totally unnecessary exposure, and one which the medical staff can not well keep properly check on. We do not know for

KE 0001330

Mr. E. W. Webb.

December 22, 1926.

example, what is done with the fluid after it reaches the laboratory. We do not know just who has contact with it and who does not, it may, in fact, expose the entire laboratory staff to a certain danger. It has been our express purpose to keep all of the types of exposure to Ethyl Fluid so localized that we could put our finger on the exposure and estimate its quantity. We have also tried to keep the total number of exposed men at the least possible figures. If this policy is to be carried out at all points, even in the Indian territory only, we are introducing an immeasurable hazard, and are exposing a large number of men and our previous experience with the laboratory handling of Ethyl Fluid has not been such as to cause us to disregard this danger. I do not feel, therefore, that my department can assume the responsibility for these men, not do I feel that the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation should assume in any way the responsibility for anything which comes out of such methods. I should appreciate very much knowing your reaction to this, and any suggestion which you may have to make as to the proper means to cope with this problem. It is necessary to point out also that if things of this sort are continually going to arise without our knowledge of them, we shall not have the check on the Ethyl Fluid proposition in the way that we expect to do.

There was some little misunderstanding about this matter at Whiting, and Doctor Crudginton was given to understand to some extent that this was a matter which did not come within the province of our medical staff. It was further stated that this was purely a business matter on which orders had come from the Standard Oil office in Chicago, and that it was not necessary for any physician to pass on it. It is for that reason that instead of discussing this matter with the Chicago office, I am bringing it to your attention for your suggestion and opinion. I think you will see at once that this has serious possibilities.

Very truly yours,

RAK:OJ

KE 0001331