

ETHYL CORPORATION OF CANADA LIMITED

Memorandum of
Meeting with Occupational Health Division
Department of National Health and Welfare
Ottawa, Canada

Subject: HIGHER TETRAETHYL LEAD CONTENT IN MOTOR FUEL

The meeting was held on Thursday, December 17, 1959, at 2:00 P.M. in the Environmental Health Centre, 45 Spencer Street, Ottawa. Present were Dr. T.H. Patterson, Chief, Occupational Health Division, Department of National Health and Welfare, Dr. A.J. DeVilliers, Dr. Morris Katz of the Air Pollution Branch, Mr. A.C. Tully and Dr. D.R. Warren. Dr. DeVilliers and Dr. Katz are staff members in Dr. Patterson's division.

U.S. Public Health Service Bulletin #712 "Public Health Aspects of Increasing Tetraethyl Lead Content in Motor Fuel" had been sent in advance to Dr. Patterson, but it did not seem that he or the members of his department had had the opportunity of reviewing it. Considerable time was spent outlining the principals contained therein.

Initially Dr. Katz monopolized a fair amount of discussion emphasizing the problems in connection with air pollution. He presented a resume of studies on industrial lead poisoning from Osaka City University Medical School in Japan. This paper related to maximum allowable concentrations of lead in air of workshops.

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It was considered that for the Japanese male adults who engage in lead work under medium labour intensity for 8 to 8.5 hours a day for more than one year, the "safety limit" of average lead concentration in air to keep them free from any significant harm is approximately 0.05 mgms. per cu.mm. This paper did not have any particular significance for the subject under discussion, but provided an opportunity to appraise the men and no doubt fulfilled Dr. Katz' purpose of letting us know that he was familiar with some of the current literature.

Dr. DeVilliers seemed particularly interested in knowing whether all organic lead in motor fuel was changed to the inorganic form during combustion. I believe we were able to point out that for all practical purposes lead is discharged from automobile exhaust in the inorganic form.

Dr. Patterson pointed out that of course no legislation existed in any of the provinces regarding maximum allowable concentrations of tetraethyl lead in motor fuel, and expressed his satisfaction that the company would take the trouble to acquaint the Division of its intentions. The objective of informing the Division of the plan appeared to be satisfactorily achieved.

This Division serves, in a consulting capacity, the

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provinces which do not have their own staff, and their briefing will no doubt help us as we approach the provinces of lesser population.

The meeting concluded before 4:00 P.M.

Douglas R. Warren, M.D.

DRW:bl

7 January, 1960

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