

Mr. R. L. Goltz

New York Division

M. D. Ritchie

Westfield, N. J.

Shell Oil Company, Sewaren, N. J.
Tank-cleaning, Tank # 85

December 16, 1943

Dear Roy:

This is to report on my follow-up of events at Sewaren as of my letter to you dated December 12.

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, December 13, 14, and 15 I went to Sewaren to check on the men who had been exposed in Tank # 85 on Friday, Dec. 10. I spoke to Tirpak and Govolitz as they worked in the plant and noticed nothing untoward in their conversation or behavior on any of the three days. H.B. Quigley, plant superintendent, who visited the men in the course of supervision, stated that he noticed nothing unusual and said that he felt the men were normal in health and behavior. Tuesday I was able to see Messick at the plant, and Wednesday I dropped in at the Goodbridge firehouse and said hello to Messick as I visited the personnel there, purportedly to get in out of the cold for a time. He too, seemed in good spirits and health.

As to measures taken by Mr. Quigley to prevent a recurrence of the incident in the future:

Zehrner has been given authority to stop work on any job which in his opinion is not being done in a manner which is in best interests of safety. He has been put on list for notification on all tank-cleaning work and is responsible for presence of and usage of all safety equipment and appliances. In Quigley's absence, Gilman will have authority over all foremen and laborers as well as skilled workmen such as pipefitters and electricians, where tank-cleaning is concerned. This applies to tank-cleanings of all descriptions, whether leaded or unleaded.

The above set-up should go far to obviate any recurrence of exposure to tank-cleaning personnel at this plant.

Very truly
M. D. Ritchie

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