

April 24, 1945

Mr. I. C. Roberts,
Aluminum Ore Company,
East St. Louis, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Your letter of April 18 was received at the Laboratory in my absence and containers for the collection of samples of blood and urine have been forwarded to you together with mimeographed instructions for the collection of samples. It seems probable that these containers will have been received before this letter arrives. However, as an additional precaution I am writing to call your attention to the necessity for exercising the utmost care in the avoidance of the contamination of the samples with lead compounds. Generally speaking, people do not recognize how serious is the risk of contamination of samples, and therefore I wish to emphasize the fact. For this reason I enclose herewith additional copies of the instructions, and I ask that you follow them with extreme care.

The quantities of lead that will be found in the samples will be very small indeed, and therefore the slightest factor of contamination will increase the results many fold. Therefore, you will have to take every possible precaution against the introduction of any dust or foreign material into these samples. In our experience it is very difficult to obtain uncontaminated samples within an industrial plant. Certainly there must be facilities for so doing that are far in excess of those generally available in industry from the point of view of cleanliness and freedom from all dust. Moreover men who come into the medical quarters for the purpose of having samples taken must be clean and free of all dust on their bodies and on their clothing. Therefore, in many instances it is necessary to ask the men to remove their clothing, to take a shower, and then collect the samples in some area that is entirely free of contamination with plant fume and dust. All commonly deposited dusts, such as soot and fume contains lead, and the quantities thus available represent a serious source of contamination.

For the purpose of our records and our general information we would very much like to have as complete information as possible on the nature of the work as well as the work record of the men on whom samples are taken. It is especially important that we know the length of time an individual has been employed under conditions involving potential lead exposure and that we know the date on which the employee worked last in relation to the date of sampling. Any information concerning the nature and severity of exposure so

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far as this is available should be provided. In addition the clinical observations made on these individuals would be extremely useful to us. As a matter of fact, we are not interested in doing analyses of this type for fees, and the charge we make is based on the actual cost to us of carrying out the analyses. Our purpose rather is that of collecting extensive information with respect to industrial lead exposure, and therefore we are not fulfilling our purpose unless we obtain all the correlative information that is possible. Obviously such information is held confidential from the point of view of plant information. At the same time we are very willing and, in fact, anxious to assist our colleagues in the field of industrial hygiene by helping to demonstrate hazardous exposure when it exists in order that it may be kept under control.

Very truly yours,

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Aluminum Ore Company

East St. Louis, Ill.

April 18, 1945

Dr. R. A. Kehoe, Director
Kettering Laboratories
Eden Avenue
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

Dr. Dudley A. Irwin, Aluminum Company Medical Director, has referred us to you in the matter of lead analyses in blood and urine.

We have a certain amount of lead exposure in our plant and, in the past, have been checking individuals for this exposure by counts of stippled red cells. Since this method is open to some question and since we are not equipped to run quantitative lead analyses of this type, Dr. Irwin has passed along to us your kind offer to run a set of blood and urine analyses.

It is our understanding that you prefer to supply the sample bottles and instructions for obtaining the specimens; further that there is a charge of ten dollars (\$10.00) per man involved. If the above is correct, we would like to have seven (7) men in our plant checked for lead exposure; will you therefore kindly send the necessary equipment and instructions for these examinations and we will enter a purchase order to cover the cost of same.

Thanking you again for your kind offer, we remain

Very truly yours,

ALUMINUM ORE COMPANY

R. C. Roberts
R. C. Roberts

RCR:AK

CC: Mr. D. H. Tilson - Works Manager
Dr. D. A. Irwin - Aluminum Company Medical Director