

C O P Y

ETHYL CORPORATION
100 Park Avenue Building at 41st Street
New York 17, N. Y.

August 29, 1960

Dr. K. V. Kitzmiller
The Kettering Laboratory
Eden and Bethesda Avenues
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Karl:

Subject: Alleged Water Well Contamination
Humble Oil & Refining Company

We are attaching, for your records, copies of correspondence
covering the above subject.

Yours very truly,

/s/ H. K. Ball
H. K. Ball

HKB:vb
Attachment

KE 0020198

C O P Y

Mr. H. K. Ball

New York

J. M. Rollins

Tulsa

Alleged Water Well Contamination
Humble Oil & Refining Company

August 23, 1960

On August 9 Ken Jost reported by telephone some of the details in this matter to Doug King indicating that it was hoped we could handle the matter locally with the customer, and that no action would be required by anyone else in our Company.

In order to complete your file in the matter, we are attaching a copy of Mr. J. E. Hendrick's letter of August 18 which indicates Humble thinks they can settle the matter without further reference to us. However, they have asked that we keep in our files the laboratory reports on two gasoline samples submitted to our Houston Laboratory. It may be necessary for these to be produced in evidence if the matter goes to court.

We are attaching a copy of the report by the Gasoline Testing Division on Laboratory No. OH 3371, and copies of the following letters which will supplement the information previously given:

T. E. Dawson's letter of July 7 to J. E. Hendrick
Dr. J. C. Burdick's letter of July 22 to Howard Gerber
J. H. Laubach's letter of August 3 to W. S. Eskridge
W. S. Eskridge's letter of August 3 to J. O. Balzer

/s/ J. M. Rollins
J. M. Rollins

JMR:jw

Attachments

KE 0020199

Mr. J. O. Balzer

Tulsa

J. E. Hendrick

Houston

Alleged Water Well Contamination
Humble Oil & Refining Company

August 18, 1960

Dear Jake:

Bill Steen of Humble visited me today and agreed to let us off the hook on his request for a letter giving Ethyl's official opinion on what changes occur in gasoline after it has been through several feet of soil.

The matter has been turned over to Humble's Legal department who propose to offer the Nacogdoches dealer the opportunity of going to court to settle his claim. Humble has taken 6' core samples of soil between the service station and well and find that when filtered through 21" of this soil gasoline losses all color, all upper cylinder lubricant, and all TEL, according to Mr. Steen.

Humble feels they have ample evidence to support their claim.

Mr. Steen did ask that we keep in our files the laboratory reports on the two gasoline samples received by our Houston laboratory on July 19.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. E. Hendrick
J. E. Hendrick

JEH:ka

KE 0020200

Mr. J. O. Balzer

Tulsa

J. E. Hendrick - W.S. Eskridge

Houston

Alleged Water Well Contamination
Humble Oil & Refining Company

August 3, 1960

Dear Jake:

I am not sure just how much background information you have on the attached so here is the story. Several weeks ago Bill Steen contacted our office with the request that we run a sample of gasoline that had been skimmed from a water well at Nacogdoches, Texas. For reasons best known by themselves, Humble wished to no longer have this man handle their products. It is our understanding that very soon after having been notified of that fact the dealer discovered gasoline in his water well. This man has complained to Humble representatives and has, I believe, threatened suit.

The water well mentioned is located approximately forty feet from the gasoline pumps and the dealer claims that leakage from the gasoline tanks or pumps has contaminated his well.

Bill Steen personally secured the first sample of gasoline and brought it to our laboratory. You will find a copy of the report attached dated July 7. About July 6 Mr. Steen brought another sample to us and requested analysis. This second sample included both water and gasoline in the same bottle. The water portion of the sample was submitted to our Medical department - Dr. J. G. Burdick. Attached also is an analysis of that water.

This whole problem has been handled in a not very workmanlike manner. The water sample that we had analysed is certainly not representative of water that is drawn from the well for drinking purposes since it was exposed for an unknown length of time directly to the gasoline under conditions of high heat and agitation. The request which prompted Jack Laubach's letter attached came also from Mr. Steen about August 2. To put the story in a nutshell, Mr. Steen strongly suspects that the dealer has sabotaged the well and that the gasoline appearing in the water did not come through forty feet of earth to get there.

I do not know just what we can do about this problem but since a direct request has been made we would appreciate your handling. I know there will be some questions you will wish to have answered before pursuing the matter further. Please feel free to ask them.

Yours very truly

J. E. Hendrick
By W. S. Eskridge

WSE:ka

Mr. J. E. Hendrick - W. S. Eskridge

Houston

Jack Laubach

Houston

Humble Request for Ethyl's Opinion

August 3, 1960

Dear Mr. Askridge:

Humble has concern regarding the alleged contamination of a water well by gasoline thought by an East Texas dealer to have come from the service station tanks and/or pumps operated by him.

Mr. W. C. Steen of Humble has submitted samples of gasoline found in the well to our Houston laboratory on two occasions. Since the disagreement between the dealer and Humble, as to how the gasoline got in the well, may result in legal action, Mr. Steen has asked for further help from Ethyl Corporation.

He would like our Corporate opinion as to what changes will occur in gasoline after it has passed through several feet of soil. Will the color change? Will the lead be removed? etc. This consideration is important in that the service station gasoline system is approximately forty feet from the water well; the dealer apparently claims that gasoline found in the well somehow came through the ground from leaks in the service station gasoline system, while Humble personnel feel that tests of gasoline taken from the well indicate that this could not be.

We request that a letter be prepared which states what Ethyl Corporation believes will happen when gasoline flows through soil. Mr. Steen asks that our letter also mention that actually flowing some gasoline through soil might be a helpful experiment.

This letter should be directed to Mr. A. R. Malley, Humble Oil & Refining Company, P.O. Box 2025, Tyler, Texas, but sent to our Houston office for transmittal to Mr. Malloy. Mr. Malloy is a lawyer with the Humble organization.

Very truly yours,

/a/ Jack
Jack Laubach

JL:fld

C O P Y

Mr. Howard Gerber

Houston

J. G. Burdick, M.D.

Houston

Subject Water Sample

July 22, 1960

The sample of water you submitted to us two or three days ago has been reported by the laboratory to have 2.5 mgm of lead per liter. This is 25 times the maximum allowable level set by the U.S. Public Health Service. The continuous use of water containing quantities as small as 0.5 of a part per million (0.5 mgm per liter) has caused serious injury to health.

/s/ J. G. Brudick, M.D.
J. G. Burdick, M.D.

JGB:W

KE 0020203

N20192.05

C O P Y

oline Testing Laboratory

ETHYL CORPORATION
Houston 28, Texas

3910 West Alabama

July 7, 1960

Mr. J. E. Hendrick
Ethyl Corporation
3910 West Alabama
Houston 27, Texas

Dear Mr. Hendrick:

Our laboratory has the following results to report on the Esso sample taken from their Dealer Station #9165.

They requested TEL analysis and gravity only on the sample:

TEL ml/gal - 3.84
Gravity API - 47.3

Very truly yours,

/s/ T.E. Dawson
T. E. Dawson

TED:ed

KE 0020204

N20192 06

Esso (Humble) M
T. L. Montgomery, Dealer #9165
Sample 2

TEL

GUM

3.75

17

FOZ

FOZ

N20192.07

Nacogdoches, Texas	OH 3371
Nacogdoches, Texas	SR-2-?
Complaint sample from W. C. Steen	7-15-60
Humble	7-19-60
TEL Gravity and Gum only	7-20-60
	BD

GRAV.	COLOR
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47.4	Amber
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FOZ	FOZ
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KE 0020205