

ETHYL CORPORATION

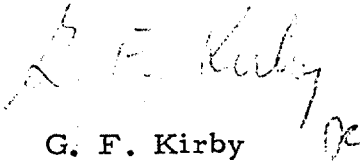
INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

TO	Dr. R. A. Kehoe	ADDRESS	Cincinnati
FROM	Dr. G. F. Kirby	ADDRESS	New York
SUBJECT	Meeting with USPHS on Atmospheric Lead Contamination	DATE	March 9, 1960
February 18 - Washington, D.C.			

Attached is a copy of draft of a letter to the Smoke
and Fumes Committee of the API from Jack Sabina and
myself.

We are making up about 25 copies of this for distribu-
tion within the Committee.

GFK:JC


G. F. Kirby

KE 0003347

DRAFT #1

Ch. K. Kline
March 1, 1960

The Smoke and Fumes Committee is well aware of the active interest which the U.S. Public Health Service is taking in various programs to study and correct air contamination in American cities. The Public Health Service has been interested in recent months in the investigation of contamination which results from the burning of fuels in automobiles, and particular attention has been focused on the Los Angeles smog problem and the contribution of automobile exhaust to this problem.

One component of automobile exhaust products is lead. It is released primarily in the form of various salts. While it has been demonstrated that lead used as a fuel additive does not contribute in any way to air contamination problems at the present time, it is, nevertheless, a fuel component which can be easily identified and to which public attention is often called. There are many other sources of lead in the normal urban environment, but none are so easily traced and measured as that used in fuel.

Members of the tetraethyl lead industry have sponsored very intensive studies of all aspects of lead in fuels which could bear on public health, and the record of the industry has been excellent for many years. At the present time, there is no reason to believe that any significant lead hazard exists. The interest of the PHS in this

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problem is therefore primarily to develop information and be prepared to meet any situations requiring control which may develop in the future. As an expression of this interest, a meeting on atmospheric lead contamination was called in Washington on February 18 by Mr. V. G. MacKenzie, Assistant Chief, Research and Development Division of Engineering Services. The participants in this meeting are listed with the attached agenda. It will be noted that the American Petroleum Institute was requested to send a representative. At the request of Mr. W. T. Gunn, Frank L. Dennis of the Washington office was present, and the American Petroleum Institute was further represented by Mr. J. R. Sabina of E. I. duPont de Nemours & Co., Inc. and George F. Kirby of the Ethyl Corporation, who were also in attendance for the tetraethyl lead industry.

The attached agenda and program were followed closely in the meeting. They represent quite well the intention of the Public Health Service to participate in obtaining analytical data which will describe the distribution and behavior of lead in atmospheres to which city dwellers in this country are exposed.

In his introduction to this meeting. Dr. Bauer recognized the creditable basic contributions which have been made, particularly by the Kettering Laboratories under the direction of Dr. R. A. Kehoe and the sponsorship of the tetraethyl lead producers. He stated that

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the Public Health Service now has the funds and personnel to participate first-hand in further studies of lead in the environment and its effect on the human body. There was every indication from the subsequent discussion that the studies planned by the Public Health Service will be objective and technically sound, and that they will contribute to a better understanding of this matter.

It was agreed that the program should be a cooperative one, making use of the best scientific know-how which can be brought to bear on the various problems involved. The program will be coordinated in three steps -

(1) Establishment of analytical methods and chemical techniques with standardization and checking procedures to be set up among all participating laboratories.

(2) Coordination of programs now under way to avoid duplication.

(3) Development of collaboration for new programs.

The environmental program, as discussed by Mr. Stern, will require particularly good liaison on sampling techniques and chemical analyses. It will be noted that the first step in this program was scheduled to begin on February 29. The Taft Engineering Laboratories were assisted by experienced chemists from the producing industry in getting this program under way. The various environmental studies

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which will be undertaken later in the year will cover a wide distribution of sample points and they should amplify our understanding of the current situation on lead-in-air burdens.

The medical program represents a logical extension of programs which have been carried out in the past by the Kettering Laboratories. It is expected that more individuals can be covered than in previous studies and a wider variety of samples traced for correlation.

In the course of the meeting, Chairman MacKenzie asked whether all existing data bearing on this subject could be made available, and also whether the companies representing the tetraethyl lead industry would be willing to participate in further community-type studies. He was assured by Messrs. Kirby and Sabina that the industry welcomed a chance to participate and to make all existing data available to the Public Health Service. It was then suggested by the Chairman that a working committee be formed to guide and coordinate this program for the next year. Both Ethyl and DuPont agreed to appoint representatives to such a committee.

It is our understanding that the American Petroleum Institute should decide what type of representation it would like on this working committee. It is our recommendation that the arrangement instituted by Mr. Gunn be continued, and that the representatives of Ethyl and DuPont continue to represent the American Petroleum Institute for

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the purpose of informing the Institute as to the scope and progress of the studies undertaken. We believe that the Smoke and Fumes Committee should be actively interested, and should keep in close touch with the progress of this study. If at any time a change from this type of representation is needed, I am sure the Public Health Service would be glad to comply with such a change.

J. R. Sabina

G. F. Kirby

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