

October 7, 1926.

Mr. E. W. Webb,
The Ethyl Gasoline Corporation,
25 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Webb:

Concerning the mixing equipment at River Rouge the following is the primary objection. The mixing system, or at least, the mixing pump which at this point is being used as a metering device only, is partially enclosed. There are, on either side of the building, trap doors which may be fastened so as to completely enclose the pump. There is a gasoline pump which I understand is entirely out of doors through which the actual mixing is being done.

One of the things which our rules have specifically required is that no pump or metering device should be enclosed, or should be arranged in such a way that it may be enclosed. This was done with the deliberate attempt to make it impossible for any workman to use his own judgment as to whether he chooses to inhale a small quantity of Ethyl Fluid in preference to being exposed to the cold wintry blasts. The cold winds on the lake region are undoubtedly uncomfortable, but I think it is fair to assume that there is some danger with the trap doors capable of being closed they would occasionally be used when men are at work. For this reason, and no other, I put in the sentence eliminating any arrangements which would even allow the building to be closed. I called Mr. Parks attention to this in a conversation with him, and he agreed that this would be taken care of at every point where such trap doors were found. It is the presence of these trap doors at River Rouge to which I seriously object. So far as I know all other matters are being taken care of at this point. I would suggest, therefore, that these trap doors be removed and taken away so that it will be impossible for this room to be closed. I suggest this in spite of the fact that I no one is in this building for any considerable period of time, but I am justly afraid of any point where the concentrated vapor of tetraethyl lead may be enclosed.

It is well to note also that there were no gas masks at River Rouge, and I, therefore, suggest that this matter be looked after immediately. The respirator as you know is the only possible means for making safe any man who has to take care of an emergency, such as a spill.

KE 0001353

E.W.W. Page #2

If there are any other questions in the Indiana territory which are giving rise to difficulty, or if there are any misunderstandings of any type which are holding them up in making decisions as to their type of equipment, I should be very glad, as busy as I am, to make a trip to Chicago and to discuss any matter with them. I can assure them that any plans which they choose to make after such a discussion are not likely to be changed for some considerable period of time.

Very truly yours,

RAK:QJ

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