

Esso

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

EXX 107

ESSO STANDARD OIL COMPANY

LOUISIANA DIVISION

P. O. BOX 231, BATON ROUGE 1, LA.

MANUFACTURING DEPARTMENT

H. J. VOORNIES
VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER

September 11, 1952

Consultants on Air Pollution

Mr. William Raden
Esso Standard Oil Company
15 West 51st Street
New York 19, New York

Dear Mr. Raden:

You will recall that a qualitative survey of air pollution from the Baton Rouge Refinery has recently been completed by Esso Engineering Department in collaboration with Stanford Research Institute. This study indicated that we do not have an atmospheric pollution problem. However, the unsightliness of our refinery burning pit and certain of our flare stacks from the standpoint of evolution of black smoke was emphasized to us and we are proposing projects for the 1953 budget to minimize smoke from these sources.

Although the survey was favorable, and complaints directed at Esso on the subject of atmospheric pollution have been few and have been of a minor nature, in view of the problems being encountered by refineries in other cities and by some of the other Esso refineries, we believe it important to continue to survey our situation and make sure that we are taking all reasonable steps to prevent contamination of the atmosphere. To this end we are considering employing outside consultants to study foreign matter in the atmosphere in Baton Rouge.

The head of the Chemistry Department at Louisiana State University has indicated that he and certain of his associates would be agreeable to carrying out work, on a consultant basis, to determine the nature and amount of any contaminants which may be present in the atmosphere around Baton Rouge. This would be accomplished by sampling the atmosphere on a routine basis at a number of predetermined spots scattered throughout the city, and by observing regularly the rate of deterioration of test strips of various materials exposed to the weather at scattered points. The work would be carried out in such a way that we believe no particular attention would be called to the work and no curiosity would be aroused. We have received a definite proposal from the gentlemen involved. The cost would be \$8,800 the first year and \$5,800 each succeeding year. The additional cost for the first year provides for a truck equipped with a mobile laboratory.

It is quite possible that this study will not uncover any particular pollution problems. The study will not be elaborate enough to give anything like a complete picture on atmospheric contamination at Baton Rouge, since some possible contaminants may not be covered and round-the-clock continuous sampling would not be carried out. However, the work will provide us with a knowledge of

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methods of sampling and analysis that can serve as a basis for more complete studies if this proves desirable. The work will also provide us with some additional information which will either further assure us that we are not contaminating the atmosphere or help us in avoiding contamination. We will obtain an accumulation of data showing atmospheric composition which should be helpful in case we should ever encounter difficulties from air pollution charges. There is no such routine analytical data available to us now.

We have considered handling this study by establishing fellowship funds at the University, but believe handling the work on a private consulting basis at the start would be preferable since it would allow us to maintain control of the data obtained. Use of University people rather than out-of-state consultants should be advantageous in view of a probable more favorable local reaction to the testimony of these people should the matter later come to public attention in any way. An incidental advantage of this arrangement is that it will aid us in continuing good relations with members of the University faculty, which is helpful to us in our technical employment program.

We believe that we should authorize this work for an initial period of one year and that we may wish to extend it beyond that time depending upon review of the first year's results. If you have any comments they will be appreciated. We are also contacting Esso Engineering Department for their comments in view of their past experience with air pollution work.

Very truly yours,

H. J. VOORHIES

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