

January 2, 1951

AIR MAIL

Mr. H. Fossett,
The Associated Ethyl Company Limited,
Northwich, Cheshire,
England.

Dear Hu:

Thanks for your letter of December 15 with further reference to the ethyl chloride/dichloroethane processes. This has given us as much information as we can make use of. I turned the information over to Doctor Horton who has little comment to make, but who feels that the possibility of trouble within your own plant is most unlikely, since you do not engage in cracking paraffin gases to olefins.

With respect to the problems that Shell will face, we are inclined to feel that there is the distinct possibility that aromatic compounds may be produced, and that opportunities for exposure to these might give rise to real risks. The extent of these risks is unpredictable, since we do not know just what is the carcinogenic material nor what concentration in the atmosphere is required to cause trouble. In short, then, exposure must be reduced to the absolute minimum. Therefore, the operation of the plant should be kept under close observation, and if opportunities present themselves for exposure of personnel to escaping vapors from various stages of the operation, every effort should be made to correct such defects in the processes. We are much more concerned here with the inhalation of carcinogenic materials, than we are with skin contact. On the other hand, the latter has to be thought of as well as in any situation in which there is an accumulation of high boiling aromatic compounds which may come in contact with the skin.

I agree with you that this matter can be left for further consideration after the plants are in actual operation. If we can be of any assistance at that time, we will certainly be glad to do so.

With kindest personal regards and with best wishes at this season of the year,

Sincerely yours,

RAK ef

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

Dictated but not read.