

29 May 1956

Mr. J. T. Beckwith  
Ethyl Corporation  
100 Park Avenue  
New York 17, New York

Dear Jim:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter to MacDill Air Force Base which closes our file on the three men who were reported to have absorbed lead from their work in the knock-testing laboratory.

Your office should have been on the list for a copy of this letter originally, but through oversight was not included.

Very truly yours,

LWS:vr

Lester W. Sanders, M.D.

Encl.

KE 0017340

3 May 1956

Base Preventive Medicine Inspector  
MacDill Air Force Base  
Tampa 8, Florida

Dear Sir:

The analytical results on the blood and urine of Messrs. Kimber, Zilo and Lerer are enclosed. These results are somewhat lower than the mean concentration of lead in blood and urine, respectively, found in people with no exposure to lead other than that encountered in food and atmosphere. It is certain evidence that there has been no recent industrial exposure to lead of any kind.

I was informed by telephone that urinary samples on these men had been reported as zero for lead at the same time that blood levels ranged to over 90 micrograms per 100 grams. This kind of relationship between the lead concentration in blood and in urine is paradoxical and on both the grounds of theory and thousands of analytical results, would be most unlikely if not impossible. These results, then, particularly in view of the fact that the subjects were clinically well and asymptomatic should have been discarded or at least viewed with extreme suspicion.

In spite of the report of a defective hood being in use in the laboratory, we feel entirely confident that these men have not been absorbing lead and there is no reason for removing them from the job.

Very truly yours,

LWS:vr

Lester W. Sanders, M.D.

Encl.

cc - Dr. R. A. Kehoe  
Col. John Boyesen  
Mr. John Curry

KE 0017341