

September 27, 1929.

Mr. T. J. Hilliard, President,
Waverly Oil Works Company,
2050 Koppers Building,
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mr. Hilliard:

I quote the following from a letter of Dr. Kehoe's of the 23rd instant which arrived here yesterday:

"Replying to your letter of September 12th in regard to conditions at the Waverly Oil Works plants at Pittsburg and Coraopolis.

"I see no reason for believing that the recommendations which I made some time ago are in any way unreasonable. The fact is that we are simply asking of the Waverly people exactly the same type of installation that we are requiring of other people. I do not wish to be unreasonable nor do I wish to be responsible for any unnecessary expenditures, but I do not see how we can compel the carrying out of the letter of our specifications with one group of customers and then give our permission to others to use makeshifts of one sort or another. To behave in this latter fashion would be to convict ourselves at once of insincerity and would serve to demonstrate that we do not really believe in the necessity of having our specifications and regulations carried out.

"Even if we wished to accommodate Mr. Hilliard in this matter, and even if we felt it proper to do so (which I do not), we would immediately get into trouble with certain other customers who would at once ask why they have been required to do certain things which the Waverly people have not been required to do. There is another point to the matter, however, and that is that the people responsible for the state supervision of these plants have kept their eye on the situation and know that there are in Pennsylvania some mixing points which do not come up to the letter of our specifications. I have recently assured Dr. Bricker, who is in charge of this work for the state, that this situation was temporary only and would be cleaned up in the near future. Under these circumstances and also for the above reasons I do not see how we can change in any way the suggestions and recommendations which I made some time ago in regard to the Waverly people and their installations."

We have had the good fortune of having Dr. Kehoe in charge of our medical work for several years, and believe that he has had more practical experience in reference to the actual as well as possible hazards that may be associated with the handling of tetraethyl lead and Ethyl fluid than anybody else. We believe

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that he is eminently qualified to advise us in reference to the necessities of any particular location to take care of either handling or storage of the fluid. We have not found him irksome or arbitrary, but at all times looking as much as he can for the reduction of expenditure of monies by our customers, when it is consistent with the safety of the men employed on the job. However, the matter of prime importance is that of protecting the men who work with the fluid. In doing that we are not only helping them but our customers as well as ourselves. Under the circumstances we have no alternative other than to renew the suggestions and recommendations which he has made in reference to your installations.

I hope that you will appreciate the fact that it is not our desire to annoy or disturb any of our customers about expenditures to take care of the Ethyl business, but we simply cannot take any action which is contrary to the advice of Dr. Kehoe as to do so might not only come back to plague you and me some day but would seriously impair his efficiency as medical director.

It would be esteemed a favor if the recommendations of Dr. Kehoe were given prompt attention.

Yours very truly,

E. W. Webb

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