

Kehoe MSS

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October 5, 1950

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. H. Fossett,
Associated Ethyl Company Ltd.,
Artillery House, Artillery Row,
London, S.W. 1, England.

Dear Fossett:

With reference to your confidential letter of August 25 concerning the "Shell" ethyl chloride process, I have had some discussion with my associate Doctor Horton. Unfortunately I was unable to tell him as much about the process as I should, and therefore he is not very clear on what importance to attach to the heavy ends. Accordingly I would appreciate your writing to me under confidential cover, telling me as much about the process as you can, for our own private information.

From your statement about the 5-lbs. an hour of heavy ends, it seems that there is not likely to be any very considerable quantity of dangerous material. On the other hand, the properties are more important than the quantity, and therefore it becomes necessary for us to know as closely as possible what is likely to be the boiling range of the heavy ends.

I am inclined to suspect that if the Shell people knew the nature of our interest in this and our willingness to pass on to them any information which would seem useful to them, they might be entirely willing to pass on to us through you any information they may have. First, however, it would seem important to establish whether the boiling range is such that potentially carcinogenic materials may well be expected. I have a feeling that the problem which is under consideration at Baton Rouge is sufficiently different than yours that you need not be concerned. Incidentally we have the material from Baton Rouge under test, although not less than six months will be required, in all probability, to get any definite results. I shall make point of passing the information on to you when we get it. Meantime we shall be guided in what further should be done, if any, by the additional information you can give us.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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THE ASSOCIATED ETHYL COMPANY LIMITED NORTHWICH CHESHIRE

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ABBAY 3974.

OUR REF. MZF/4(a)

YOUR REF.

DATE

25th August 1950

CONFIDENTIAL.

Dr. R. A. Kehoe,
The Ritz Hotel,
Piccadilly,
London, W.1.

Dear Dr. Kehoe,

During the course of our discussions at Northwich we promised to send on to you some data regarding the heavy ends which are likely to be formed in the "Shell" ethyl chloride process.

As far as we can ascertain, we may expect to get about 5-lbs. an hour of heavy ends including traces of benzene, substituted benzene, paraffinic material and chloropropenes.

I do not know whether this information is sufficient for you to express any opinion on the probable toxic hazards, but if it is not I will get into touch with "Shell" to see if they have some more specific data available from their pilot plant workings.

Yours sincerely,

hf/ecd


(H. Fossett)

c.c. The Kettering Laboratory of
Applied Physiology,
CINCINNATI.