

November 4, 1935

Mr. E. W. Webb
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation
Chrysler Building
New York City
New York

Dear Mr. Webb:

Having returned to my office this morning it seemed wise to give you a brief summary of what was accomplished in Mexico, of what the present situation is there and of what should be done. I have a copy of a statement in Spanish issued by the Chief of the Petroleum Department of the Secretariat of National Economy in Mexico. I shall be receiving an accurate translation of this statement from Mr. Hickman within the next day or two, and I will forward a copy of it to you along with the Spanish copy signed both by myself and the Chief of the Department. Meanwhile the essential points in the statement are as follows:

(1) The Department accepts the official booklet of Regulations issued by the Ethyl Export Corporation as a basis for the regulation of the mixing of Ethyl Fluid with gasoline.

(2) In view of the dangerous character of the Fluid it is agreed that drums of Fluid shall be shipped into Mexico in full car load lots, customs inspection to be made at the refinery to which the car is shipped and not at the border. (In view of the fact that the mixing plant is to be at Mexico City, nothing was said for the moment about the shipment of Fluid by water. If the necessity arises for this at a later date, the matter can be taken up with the Petroleum Department. It was not considered wise to discuss these details or to include them in the memorandum at the time of our discussion.)

(3) The propriety of periodic visits on the part of field representatives of the Corporation and medical representatives of the Corporation was recognized, and it was agreed by the Department that it would facilitate the granting of permits to representatives of the Corporation for these purposes.

(4) It was agreed that the only precautions required in the handling of the gasoline were the use of a color

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and the use on pumps and containers of a sign. The sign agreed upon was the simplified form similar to that to be used in South America but with slight changes to correspond with Mexican Spanish. The sign agreed upon was as follows: "Para Ser Usado Solamente En Motores Contiene Plomo Traetilo".

(5) The color agreed upon was blue.

(6) The Department agreed to accept the entire jurisdiction over the matter and to use its good offices in bringing the whole subject to the attention of the various Secretaries of the State of Mexico such as the Department of Health etc., who might be concerned with the problem.

All of the above agreed upon by the Chief of the Department is, of course, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Economia Nacional. I saw and talked with the Sub-secretary who stated that the approval of the Secretary was simply a matter of form. He assured me that the Department would be pleased to do everything it could to smooth out any difficulties which might arise.

There is one possibility for difficulty in that I was told while in Mexico City that the jurisdiction of this entire matter might be changed and put in the hands of the Bureau of Industrial Hygiene of the Department of Public Health. It is not possible to make any prediction about changes of this sort in the Mexican government. However, I made a courtesy call on the man who is in charge of the Bureau of Industrial Hygiene, discussed the matter with him in a very brief memorandum and gave him the various publications on the subject for his information. No request was made of him for any statement of his position and he understood that my call on him was merely the courtesy shown by one medical man to another in relation to a field of work in which we were mutually interested. The way has been paved, therefore, for any subsequent developments and I was given every assurance that there would be very little difficulty. The acceptance on the part of the Mexican government of our general program involves the necessity for our full cooperation. It will be necessary for the Corporation to have a technical representative in Mexico City at the time of the completion of the mixing plant (which will be in about two weeks), for the purpose of inspecting the plant and instructing the men in carrying out the initial mix. It has been agreed also that such technical representatives shall return at intervals of not less than twice a year for a periodic inspection

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Petroleum Department. The cooperation required can be arranged for through the head office of Aguila who fully understand the requirements of the Department. Apparently all that is necessary is to establish personal contact with the Department and to keep it acquainted with the activities of our field representative.

The question of medical supervision was not quite so simply arranged since no medical men other than a Mexican physician can assume the responsibility for the workmen and for such reports as are necessary to the Department. Accordingly, although one of our own medical men can make the necessary examinations and can make his recommendations to Aguila, he will not have any official standing with the Mexican government. I discussed the whole matter with Dr. Lynn of the Medical Department of Aguila who is quite willing to accept the cooperation of our medical staff, in fact, he wants very much to have one of my associates visit them from time to time, but he will examine the men himself at regular intervals and will report to the government. It will be sufficient for our purposes to have Dr. Schradin visit the plant in the course of his annual trip, and except for the fact that he will have no official standing, his work there will be the same as at other points in the United States.

Mr. Branch of Aguila is making the necessary arrangements for the permits for both Mr. Shell and Dr. Schradin. I wired you as I did about Mr. Littlefield only because it was necessary that permits be obtained as soon as possible in order that the inspection might be made within the next few weeks, so as not to occasion delay but also to demonstrate to the government our good faith in the matter of care and supervision of the plant. I see no reason why Mr. Shell should not be able to take care of the matter as adequately as Mr. Littlefield, but at the time I wrote you and wired you I was under the impression you might probably wish to have Mr. Littlefield complete the preliminary arrangements, and then turn them over to someone else.

While I was in Mr. Hickman's office last Saturday afternoon, he informed me that an order had been put in for Fluid and that he would return the signed contract to you by air mail.

This completes, so far as I can see, the arrangements for initiating the distribution of leaded gasoline in Mexico and I do not believe there will be any further difficulties.

I dare say you will wish me to get in touch with Mr. Shell in order to acquaint him with any detailed information of which he may be in need, but I shall await your instructions in that matter. I am quite sure that the Aguila people will give him every assistance and cooperation. I found them exceedingly

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pleasant people with whom to deal, and I feel certain that they will follow through everything which they agreed to do in a careful and orderly manner.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

RAK:ls

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.