

October 28, 1940

Mr. Harry Kaley  
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation  
Chrysler Building  
New York, New York

Dear Harry:

The information has reached us that certain oil companies employ testing laboratories to establish conditions in their tanks before they enter them for cleaning.

Recently, one company called in the Detroit Testing Laboratory to make certain analyses. They used a combustible gas indicator and made certain other tests, the exact nature of which we do not know, and when asked about the condition of the tank, assured the management that it was safe for men to enter. The management then asked specifically about the lead hazard and the representative of the Detroit Testing Laboratory assured the manager that the lead hazard was insignificant and the men could go ahead and clean without precautions.

We understand further that Jim Boudreau had his man I.E. Flaa call upon the Detroit Testing Laboratory and explain the matter to them. We are not writing Flaa for further information inasmuch as this may be a practice in other places in the United States and you will undoubtedly want to get information both from Boudreau and possibly from the other divisions as to the extent of this practice. Where similar laboratories are used, it would certainly be desirable for our representative to call upon the laboratories in question and explain to them the nature of the lead hazard.

Will you let me know what you find out about this from Jim?

Cordially,

WM:vr

Willard Machle, M. D.