ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION

CHRYSLER BUILDING
405 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK

SAFETY COMMITTEE
O. B. LEWIS
CHAIRMAN

October 23, 1926

Mr. M. A. Taylor

Dear Matt,

As Mr. Ball has probably told you, we have run into some trouble with the Socony Vacuum people in regard to posting metal tags on their tanks. They take the view that this would indicate non-tagged tanks were not dangerous and also that the safety engineer and foreman who must be present at all tank cleaning operations might somewhat relax their vigilance due to the fact that our notice would give them somewhat of an alibi. It seemed to be contrary to company policy to post notices of this kind on any tanks.

We had a long discussion with Messrs. C. C. Benedict in charge of operations of the company, E. J. Benne in charge of safety for the company, and J. N. Cleppfel. The outcome of it was that we were to write a letter giving the arguments which we had used in our discussion. We also felt we might add the Medical Department's opinion on the necessity for this measure. The door was not closed permanently, as Mr. Benedict said he would be glad to discuss this further when he received our letter. Naturally, we did not want to take an arbitrary stand ourselves until we have tried all other avenues of approach. Also, Mr. Benedict agreed to secure the list of tanks in which concentrated fluid had been blended and call it a "black list" and to give us the information whenever these tanks were to be cleaned. From this, I believe we will be able to work out something satisfactorily but up to date we are in rather a stalemate.

I write you all of the above so that you may not force the issue with individual refineries or do anything to crystalize the opinions which have been formed by Socony Vacuum against this new policy of ours. You might let me know the reaction of the men in the field.

Very truly yours,

J. C. Taylor

By O. B. Lewis