

ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION

MANUFACTURING DEPARTMENT

MAIL ADDRESS: BOX 688, WILMINGTON, DEL.
FREIGHT ADDRESS: CARNEY'S POINT, N.J.
TELEPHONE: PENNS GROVE, N.J. 280, EXTENSION 213.

May 10, 1932

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
University of Cincinnati
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

Attached hereto is copy of my letter to Mr. Mitnacht under date of May 6 commenting in connection to the letter of May 3 addressed to you by the California Chemical Corporation, Mr. Paul A. Gross, reporting the details on the accident that they had during the washing of some loaned ethylene dibromide drums.

I believe this will frankly explain the full situation to you insofar as the plant is concerned.

I await your further comments.

Yours very truly,

J. H. Schaefer

JHS:J

P.S. I acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of May 7 on this subject.

J. H. Schaefer

KE 0017036

ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION

MANUFACTURING DEPARTMENT
DEEPWATER PLANT

INTER-OFFICE
CORRESPONDENCE

PENNS GROVE, N. J.

May 6, 1932

Memorandum: Mr. A. E. Mitnacht

Thanks very much for your copy of letter to Sam Wagner on the subject of the trouble reported on the empty ethylene dibromide drums we shipped to the California Chemical Corporation

For your information, I am attaching hereto copy of letter received today addressed to Dr. Kehoe and written by Mr. Gross of the California Chemical Corporation. In all my experience here at the plant, I do not believe I have ever received a letter which has upset me as much as this one. There is absolutely no doubt that the responsibility for this mishap was directly on this Department. There is now no question in my mind but that the drum contained residual ETHYL Fluid.

I had a meeting this morning with all of our men connected with the blender and advised them of the seriousness of the whole case. The mere fact that the man is apparently out of danger has but little bearing on the situation as that was a matter entirely beyond our control. I told the men that this was a pure and simple case of lack of supervision on their part and their work and that I felt that some substantial reprimand was due each of them who had in his work some responsibility for this occurring. I have not yet decided the nature of this, but at the present time feel that they deserve something more than a mere verbal reprimand.

It is, of course, perfectly possible that the drum had been washed before being placed at the storage pile of empty P.I.C. drums; the men feel that this was the case, but of course, there is no positive proof of it. Now, if a drum had been washed, as you know, it would still contain certain vapors from the ETHYL Fluid. The method of washing drums containing poisons, either ETHYL Fluid or ethylene dibromide, as used by the California Chemical Corporation is certainly not beyond reproach, but that is neither here nor there as far as our own particular participation in this accident is concerned.

J. H. Schaefer

JHS:J

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