

March 30, 1936

Dr. Graham Edgar
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation
Chrysler Building
New York City
New York

Dear Dr. Edgar:

I have examined your letter of March 23rd and its enclosures relating to a break in a gasoline pipe line which apparently resulted in the contamination of a city water supply with a colored gasoline, presumably leaded.

It does not appear that there is anything to do about this at present, but I believe the people concerned should be advised on two points. First they should keep us in touch with any subsequent developments as promptly as possible. Second, they should be informed, I believe, that any illness in individuals which resulted from the drinking of water contaminated with leaded gasoline would be due not to an appreciable absorption of lead, but to an extreme irritation of the gastro-intestinal tract from the gasoline itself. Small quantities of gasoline, as you doubtless know, are quite irritating and produce rather acute illness with a considerable gastro-intestinal distress and with nervous system symptoms. It can be shown by calculation that the quantities of lead absorbed from drinking water containing gasoline would be insignificant. It seems unnecessary to go into further details on this matter but this fact should be understood by the representatives of the gasoline distributors. I leave it entirely to your discretion as to whether it is necessary or advisable to point out these facts.

Very truly yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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