

June 2, 1943

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. L. E. Edelman,
Director of Research,
The Lake Erie Chemical Company,
2200 Scranton Road,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Edelman:

I regret very much my delay in replying to your letter of May 12, but I have been compelled to be out of my office on a number of matters until yesterday, and it has not been possible for me to write you or to make any plan for visiting you. I hope this delay has not inconvenienced you.

Incidentally I might point out that I was in the New York office of the Ethyl Corporation last Saturday and spoke to Mr. Jones who visited you in Cleveland. It had been Mr. Jones' opinion that you were sending in an order for a small quantity of tetraethyl lead with which to make preliminary observations. Your order had not been received, and I believe Mr. Jones was waiting to receive it before taking any further action. If you wish to expedite this matter, I would suggest that you send in the order, whereupon I think you will receive promptly a small can of tetraethyl lead.

I quite agree with Mr. Jones that I ought to visit you and go over the matter of how you will expect to handle tetraethyl lead, obtaining all details with respect to the quantities, plant facilities, etcetera. This is not a small problem, and especially because tetraethyl lead gives little or no warning of its dangers, you are likely to run into serious difficulties unless suitable arrangements are made. On the basis of my present commitments, I think I would be able to visit you almost any day next week, but preferably perhaps on Thursday. If you will let me know whether this meets your convenience, I shall be guided accordingly. If you wish me to be there on some alternate day, please name the date, and I shall let you know by wire whether I can make it.

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Perhaps I should say further that the regulations which you have received while generally applicable, have been prepared for the specific situations that exist at mixing plants. Your problems would be much more like that seen in the plants in which tetraethyl lead is manufactured. The hazard will be somewhat different quantitatively and qualitatively, and therefore would have to be considered by a somewhat different approach. In any case, I should be glad to assist you in any way I can, for I should like you not to have to go through the difficulties that others have experienced in the handling of this dangerous compound.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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