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ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION

CHRYSLER BUILDING
135 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK

GRAHAM EDGAR
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

August 1, 1934.

Dr. Willard F. Machle,
University of Cincinnati,
College of Medicine,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Machle:

I have discussed your letter of July 24th at some length with Mr. Walter. The problem of cleaning tanks is one which I think we will, eventually, have to face. So far, we have actually cleaned only one tank namely, one of the Standard of Louisiana tanks which had been in service for a long time.

On this tank, when all the fluid had been sucked out that could be removed, there was apparently an excess weight over the original calibration of 2,400 pounds. What was done was to fill the tank with gasoline repeatedly and suck it out into the main gasoline storage. This resulted in an apparent excess weight of about 1,000 pounds which was allowed to remain in the tank. How much of this thousand pounds was actually sludge is not easy to determine. At present, our field representatives have instructions to clean no tanks without specific instructions from the New York office.

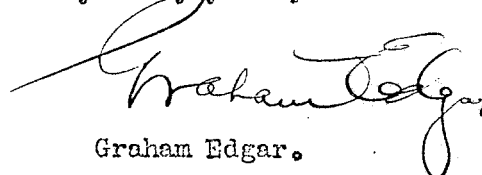
I am writing Mr. Schaefer to get his ideas on the subject.

It is my belief that the procedure which will have to be followed if a real cleaning is done is to wash, with gasoline, thoroughly, then remove the gasoline by washing and steaming, then, possibly, send in a man suitably clothed and equipped with a mask to get out the residual material.

Meanwhile, we are starting experiments designed to minimize the formation of sludge. We have found that a coating of glycerine above the fluid almost entirely prevents sludge in at least small scale operation and we are in process of putting 1/2" of glycerine over two installations, one new and one old. At the end of six months, say, we expect to check the amount of sludge which has been formed in these installations.

When I hear from Mr. Schaefer, I will write you again, and, perhaps, we can come to some sort of an agreement as to what procedure should be followed and what precautions are necessary.

Very truly yours,


Graham Edgar.