

Dr. Wacław Mirkowski
Grottgers No.7 m.3.,
Warsaw, Poland

November 9, 1937

Dr. Wacław Mirkowski
Grottgers No. 7 m. 3.,
Warsaw
Poland

Dear Doctor Mirkowski:

I take this means of confirming the arrangement made through representatives of Ethyl Export Corporation to have you look after the medical end of the affairs of Ethyl Export Corporation in Poland. I am sending you herewith a memorandum which expresses the general medical policy of the Corporation, and under separate cover in care of the Vacuum Oil Company, I am sending you a book in which there is a compilation of the various studies that have been made on this subject.

There are three points which I wish specifically to call to your attention. The dangers of lead poisoning in connection with the operation of mixing Ethyl Fluid with gasoline have been overcome in large measure through the use of proper mixing equipment. If this mixing equipment is employed in accordance with the instructions given and the regulations set forth in our booklet on the subject, no cases of poisoning should occur. In fact there should be no significant lead exposure in this occupation. The important thing, therefore, from the medical point of view, is to see that the mixing equipment is in good order, and that it is used properly. Any evidences of lead absorption on the part of the mixing personnel will indicate that the regulations are not being properly followed. On the other hand it is my hope and expectation that members of our medical staff will make it a point to examine the mixing plants and to see that they are maintained with due care.

The second point has to do with the possibility of probable poisoning in connection with the handling of gasoline. As you will see from the studies made, the danger of lead poisoning in connection with the gasoline is negligible. On the other hand, from time to time, various persons have feared that they would be poisoned and consequently various

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Dr. Mirkowski

illnesses have been confused with lead intoxication. Cases of this type should be given careful and unbiased investigation in order that a diagnosis may be made and in order that these fears should be reduced and eventually eliminated.

The third matter which justifies your careful attention is in connection with the cleaning of tanks which have been used for the blending and storage of leaded gasoline. These tanks eventually develop deposits and sludge at the bottom, and the sludge contains significant quantities of decomposition products of tetraethyl lead. It is necessary that the precautions which we have advised be followed to the letter by the men who enter such tanks for the purpose of cleaning them. The danger here is not hypothetical or imaginary, but is real. It is necessary, therefore, that the oil companies see to it that proper precautions are taken when these tanks are to be cleaned. It is especially necessary that the men be protected against the inhalation of dusts and vapors from the sludge and from the sides of the tank. In our opinion this protection can only be provided adequately by the use of air-line masks which provide a copious supply of fresh air in the face piece at all times. The recommendations for care and cleanliness are also necessary but the chief precautionary measure is associated with the use of proper masks.

I trust you will write to me from time to time, letting me know of any difficulties which you may have, or of any new developments which seem of importance. It is difficult to maintain adequate contact with this problem in all parts of the world, and I can only rely upon the care and decisions of the medical consultants of the Corporation in this regard.

Please accept my thanks for having undertaken this work, and my best wishes.

Cordially yours,

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Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

cc Mr. Bevan

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November 9, 1937

Vacuum Oil Company
Warsaw
Poland

Gentlemen:

Mr. Fossett of Ethyl Export Corporation has told me of your kindness in negotiating with Dr. Wacław Mirkowski in the matter of the medical supervision of various Ethyl Gasoline mixing plants in Poland. Because of the language difficulties, I am writing to you rather than directly to Dr. Mirkowski asking for your further kindness in transmitting to Dr. Mirkowski my approval of his appointment for this work, and my pleasure at his willingness to undertake it. I am sending herewith a letter addressed to Dr. Mirkowski which I would like you to forward to him and at his wish, to translate for him. I am sending also a memorandum in the letter which outlines the general policies of the Medical Department of Ethyl Export Corporation, and which I trust will be of use to him in becoming acquainted in some measure with the problems with which we are confronted. I am also sending him in your care, under separate cover, a book which is a compilation of most of the important medical and scientific information on this subject, and which I trust will be of use to him in his work.

Permit me to thank you in advance for your kindness in communicating with Dr. Mirkowski, and I should be very grateful to you if you would let him know that I would like him to write me from time to time and that he can write to me in French or in German, for although I can not write in either of these languages, I can read them and if I find the going difficult, I have the facilities for obtaining translations here at my office.

Very truly yours,

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Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

cc Mr. Bevan

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