

CORRESPONDENCE

FROM

E. F. Moore

AT

Philadelphia

IN REPLY
REFER TO CPB:AH

TO

C. M. Gile

AT

Pittsburgh

DATE 5-24-44

SUBJECT

ALLEGED LEAD POISONING CASE: NORFOLK, VA. TERMINAL.
[REDACTED] PIPE FITTER
MAY 18, 1944

Confirming our telephone conversation this morning with Mr. G. T. Ryan and Mr. H. J. Smith:

We attach a report in duplicate and copies of correspondence which we have prepared and sent to the Travelers Insurance Co. in connection with the alleged lead poisoning case involving [REDACTED], a Construction Department employee temporarily assigned to cleaning tanks at the Norfolk, Va. Terminal.

On April 11th, Mr. [REDACTED] assisted by Mr. Robt. Alwine, Joseph Schwartz, Gregory Kempton, A. Rutledge, L. James and S. Wheat (the latter of whom is no longer with Gulf and his address unknown) started to clean Tank #111, a 25,000 barrel tank containing Aviation Gasoline. This tank was finished on April 19th, and on April 20th, the same crew started to clean Tank #110, same size, and also containing Aviation Gasoline. This tank was completed on April 28th and the same crew started to clean the slop oil tank #122, a 5,000 barrel tank, and were assigned to this work from May 1st to May 12th inclusive.

After finishing this work, to the best of our knowledge, [REDACTED] showed no signs of lead poisoning or illness of any nature; however, he was apparently not feeling up to par and, on Wednesday, May 17th, came to Philadelphia to his residence 1710 Wingohocking St., where he was confined with what was thought to be the Grippe, being under the care of Dr. D. S. Seller, 7330 Ogontz Ave., Philadelphia. Late Sunday afternoon, May 21st, he became more seriously ill and Dr. Seller recommended that he be taken to the Jewish Hospital, Broad St. & Tabor Rd., Philadelphia. [REDACTED] was immediately placed in an oxygen tent when he arrived at the Jewish Hospital and, from what we understand, his condition was diagnosed as Pneumonia.

Late Tuesday afternoon he became delirious and completely out of his mind and, as the Jewish Hospital was not equipped to handle such cases, he was taken to the Philadelphia General Hospital, 34th St. & Curie Ave., Philadelphia, where he remains at present, under the care of Dr. Truman G. Schnabelie, who bears an excellent reputation, and who is watching the case very closely.

This morning, May 24th, Mr. R. L. Wolff, Superintendent of Construction, received a call from Mrs. [REDACTED] stating that she had just received a call from the hospital informing her that in taking blood tests they [REDACTED] traces of lead poisoning and they suggested that she contact Mr. [REDACTED] employer. We have been unable to learn the name of the interne or Doc [REDACTED] gave Mrs. [REDACTED] this information.

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This was the first knowledge we had of any alleged lead poisoning being the cause of his illness, and we immediately called Mr. G. T. Ryan and Mr. H. J. Smith at the telephone for proper guidance in the handling of the case.

Having their authority, we immediately contacted Dr. George P. Rouse, Jr., 2031 Locust St., Philadelphia and requested that he secure blood samples to determine the lead content in [REDACTED] blood stream. This was handled in this manner because Walker is dangerously ill and believed to have only a short time to live. The telephone circuit to Cincinnati was busy and it was not possible to get an immediate call thru to Dr. Kehoe. Dr. Rouse is associated with the Travelers Insurance Co. and is connected with the Presbyterian Hospital as well as the Philadelphia General Hospital. In addition to this experience, he has also handled several other cases of lead poisoning for us.

After our arrangement with Dr. Rouse was completed, we were able to get a wire thru to Cincinnati and talked to Dr. Robert A. Kehoe, who agreed that under the circumstances, we handled the situation satisfactorily and he in turn was going to talk with Dr. Rouse to see if it were practical to get two sets of blood samples, the first to be tested by Dr. John J. Reinhold of the Phila. General Hospital and the second set to be sent to the Kettinger Laboratories, College of Medicine, Cincinnati, Ohio for Dr. Kehoe's analyses.

The cleaning of the tanks at Norfolk was under the close supervision of the Safety Engineer of the Ethyl Corporation, Mr. Wm. Trelease, and as far as we can determine, all of the safety rules were strictly complied with.

Mr. R. L. Wolff, advised Mr. Cronin, in charge of the Ethyl Corporation office at 1816 Baltimore Trust Bldg., Baltimore, Md. of this affair and we understand that he in turn has already contacted Mr. Oscar Lewis, who incidentally was with Dr. Kehoe in Cincinnati at the time we were talking with him on the telephone.

It has been suggested that we have all the employees in the tank cleaning crew examined for possible lead contamination and, if it meets with your approval, we shall have Dr. Kehoe make arrangements for this thru Dr. Rouse, as three of the men are residents of Philadelphia, and may be examined upon their next visit to this city. The other two can be examined by a local physician in the City of Norfolk.

We shall of course keep you currently informed regarding the case and, if you have any comments, they would be appreciated.

CPB:AH

E. F. Moore

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[REDACTED]

Samples of blood received from Dr. J. Reinhold, Biochemical Laboratory, Philadelphia General Hospital, for lead analyses.

Blood

Analysis Number = 44A-2695

	<u>Spectrographic</u>	<u>Spectrographic</u>
Grams	7.9	8.1
Mg. Pb/100 g.	0.05	0.06

Note: The third sample run by dithizone method was badly contaminated.

The samples were not in our containers and seemed to have been provided with anticoagulants.

Samples Received: 6-5-44

Samples Reported: 6-7-44

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