

April 25, 1935

Mr. E. C. Brehmer, Manager
Indian Refining Company
Personnel Department
Lawrenceville, Illinois

Dear Mr. Brehmer:

Your letter of April 15th addressed to Mr. Mittnacht of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation concerning the examination of your employees who handle tetraethyl lead has been forwarded to me by Mr. Mittnacht.

You are quite right in your understanding that your men are to be examined at intervals of approximately a year or in less time at the discretion of the physician who is responsible for the examinations. This is to inform you that it is not on account of an oversight that you men have not yet been examined. We arrange the work of routine examinations in such a way as to suit, as far as possible, the convenience of the doctor who is in charge of the district in which your refinery is situated. Dr. Sanders has not completed his examinations in his territory, but is expecting to do so very soon, and will undoubtedly communicate with your refinery shortly in advance of his visit.

There was a time when we examined men who were mixing at intervals of three months. Somewhat later the interval was increased to six months by reason of our assurance from our experience that there was no justification for anxiety concerning the safety of the men. Somewhat later the interval was increased to a year but only on the basis of clinical and experimental evidence that the lead exposure associated with mixing operations is negligible so long as the equipment is correct and the precautions are properly carried out. We do not believe that there is any justification for lengthening the interval of examination and we do not expect to do so. On the other hand we do not regard some slight variation in the length of time as significant so long as we have evidence in our files that the severity of exposure conditions has not been materially changed since the previous visit.

Very truly yours,

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