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ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION

CHRYSLER BUILDING
405 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK

GRAHAM EDGAR
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

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March 23, 1936.

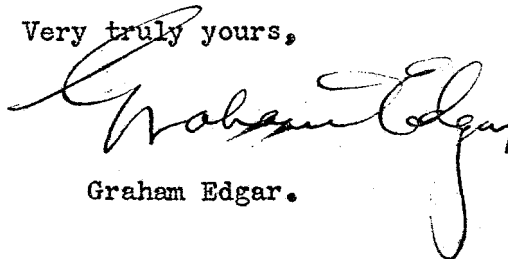
Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
University of Cincinnati
College of Medicine
Cincinnati, Ohio.

My dear Dr. Kehoe:

I enclose a copy of some correspondence relating to a break of a gasoline pipe line containing Ethyl Gasoline which is alleged to have contaminated a City water supply.

I do not assume that there is anything for us to do at the moment in this matter, but I want to keep you informed.

Very truly yours,



Graham Edgar.

GE/LRJ

Enc.

KE 0011615

GULF GASOLINE CORPORATION
NEW YORK CITY

March 13, 1936.

MEMO TO MR. J. C. TAYLOR

ATTENTION: MR. H. W. KALEY

I am attaching two memorandums from Mr. Littlefield and supporting newspaper clippings referring to the break in the Keystone Pipe Line at Sinking Springs, Pennsylvania.

The Keystone Pipe Line is a subsidiary of Atlantic Refining and like all pipe lines is a common carrier. The particular gasoline in the pipe line at the time of the break was Good Gulf which substantiates the newspaper statements to the effect the gasoline was poisonous.

Mr. Littlefield's one page report is the one that concerns us most. The report is self-explanatory. It is evident that Kline is taking advantage of the present break to sue on a similar break made some two years before.

We will follow up with Mr. Williams our receiving a copy of their Research Department's report concerning this case.

While Doctor Schradin was in New York Dick Murphy discussed with him the present break in the pipe line, but at that time knew nothing of the [REDACTED] suit.

If there is any further information you desire, we shall be very glad to secure it.

J. E. BOUDREAU

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March 9, 1936.

Mr. J. E. Boudreau

Division Manager

Dear Jim:

During my conversation with Mr. Williams of the Keystone Pipe Line, the question of a law suit pending, against the Keystone, was raised. Mr. Williams said that as this law suit included a charge of lead poisoning caused from drinking water with Ethyl Gasoline in it, he had advised the research department to report it to us in detail. As it was late in the day he could not determine whether or not this had been done and so I am forwarding briefly the details of the case for your information.

About two years ago a leak occurred in the Keystone Pipe Line on the property of one [REDACTED] Berks County, near Johnna, Pa. Mr. [REDACTED] complained about contamination in his water wells and this leak was discovered. It was a small leak and computed to be 17 drops per minute. The gasoline was Atlantic Ethyl Gasoline.

This leak was within 400 feet of two water wells used by Mr. [REDACTED]. Due to ^{the} rock formation of the ground this gasoline no doubt flowed into the strat and then into the wells. The water was colored a slight red which means of course that no filtration had taken place. There was also some free gas in the wells.

Mr. [REDACTED] claims that his wife drank some of this polluted water and as a result contracted lead poisoning, from which she is still suffering. This is not the main complaint of the suit but will be used as a wedge. Mr. [REDACTED] has witnesses to testify to this effect.

Mr. Williams has made no medical contacts on the case.

This case is coming up during April so you will no doubt receive a complete report from the research department at an early date.

Very truly yours,

MEREDITH LITTLEFIELD

KE 0011617

STANDARD
Mr. J. E. Boudreau

Philadelphia, Penna

March 9, 1936.

Mr. J. E. Boudreau

Division Manager

Dear Jim:

Supplementing my comments in my weekly letter of last week relative to pollution of drinking water by gasoline in Sinking Springs, Pa., I contacted Mr. Franks of the Atlantic Refining Company in Philadelphia who in turn referred me to Mr. Williams of the Keystone Pipe Line in Philadelphia. The Keystone Pipe Line is owned and operated by the Atlantic Refining Company but like all pipe lines is a common carrier. The leak which caused the trouble occurred in the Keystone line. Mr. Williams gave me the following information relative to this case.

There was a leak in the line and approximately 15,000 to 18,000 gallons of gasoline leaked out. This amount is as nearly as can be estimated. The leak was immediately repaired but of course the gasoline which leaked out is still evident as far as the soil pollution is concerned. The earth formation is rock, slate, etc., which means that the gasoline would flow through strata until it reaches water strata and then into wells. One cave showed a high percentage of gasoline and there was some evidence of gas in the wells.

The towns of Sinking Springs has been using two surface wells for their water supply. One well is 50 feet and the other is not over 100 feet. This supply has always been unsatisfactory and for years the people of this area have been protesting for a new and better water supply. The present agitation is a back lash of this feeling more or less.

Since the occurrence of the leak, the Keystone has been pumping these two water wells daily. They pump over a million gallons each day. They are also skimming the cave where most of the pollution occurred. Also tests of the water are made each day, and the last tests from the wells showed no contamination.

Mr. Williams feels that if it had not been for unusual weather conditions, the condition would have not existed even with a leak in the line. He always feels that if the weather continues to be fair no more trouble will be experienced. On the other hand if floods occur, more trouble may be expected.

To date although there has been much discussion about taking water from Reading, this has not been done

KE 0011618

The Public Board of health from Harrisburg are very interested and the people of Sinking Springs, are making an issue of the thing in order to secure a new and better water system. It is Mr. Williams opinion that if the present wells are condemned due to gasoline contamination, it will arouse very unfavorable criticism towards both Keystone and us. However, if they are able to clean up the present situation before any action is taken and keep it clean, when the wells are condemned at a later date, which they no doubt will be, we will be clear.

The gasoline being pumped through the line at the time of the leak was Good Gulf Gasoline and of course contained no lead.

Mr. Williams expects some more publicity on the thing but is hoping that with favorable weather they can flush the wells out sufficiently by pumping daily to clear their case. I will see Mr. Williams again next week in order to bring information up to date.

Very truly yours,

MEREDITH LITTLEFIELD

KE 0011619