

November 23, 1938

Mr. J. J. Davis
Moraine Products Division
General Motors Corporation
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Mr. Davis:

After looking over the operations involved in making the new type of bearing, I am satisfied that there is definite danger from lead-containing dusts at certain points. In fact I should be surprised if certain of the men did not show evidences of lead absorption at present despite their brief exposure.

I believe you should have accurate information on the extent of the exposure, and this can best be obtained by the study of the men, rather than the premises. This is especially true because of the other dusts which are present in the large work-room. I suggest that all of the men who have been engaged in weighing, mixing, and handling the mixed powder, prior to the introduction of the bearing, should be examined. In addition two or three other men who work at variable distances away from the mixing apparatus, should be studied to determine how far the dust carries in the large room. These men should be examined carefully, complete blood examinations should be made, and samples of blood, urine and feces should be obtained for lead analysis on some day immediately following a work day. The magnitude of the exposure will be demonstrated and recommendations can be made for the correction of the difficulty. Some time later a few observations will serve to determine whether or not the situation has been corrected.

I suggest, for my own convenience, and also to save expense, that the men come to this laboratory for examination. There will be an additional advantage to this in that the samples I want can be collected without fear of contamination. Three or four men could drive down on a Saturday, and return the same day. (I suggest Saturday for the reason that they do not work on Saturday.) Any other day, arranged in advance would be satisfactory to me.

The cost of the work will depend upon the number of men, but on the other hand the value of the work will be greater the larger the number involved, within reason, of course. The examination of each man will require not less than two hours, including the blood examination and the collection of samples.

Then there will be 3 analyses on each man. This will bring the cost for each man to about \$35.00, where the cost is based on the actual expense to the laboratory in terms of the time of members of the staff. I have anticipated that there would be not less than six or more than ten men, and that two Saturdays therefore, would be required to do the work.

As a result of this type of study we can give you the information you require with a precision that would not be possible otherwise. I should appreciate it if you would let me know what you wish to do at your earliest convenience.

Cordially yours,

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Robert A. Kohoe, M.D.

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