

UNIVERSAL OIL PRODUCTS COMPANY

310 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE

CHICAGO U S A

October 30, 1941

Dr. T. K. Sherwood
Technical Aide to Division B
National Defense Research Committee
Office of Scientific Research & Development
1530 P Street N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Sherwood: Tetraethyl and Lead Reaction Products
Removal from Gasoline Containers

Your letter of October 10th to Mr. Alther was turned over to me for study and answer.

The problem does not look like an insurmountable one to us. We have a number of suggestive methods and tested out one on a five-gallon can of ethylized gasoline which had been standing for six months. By the use of steam and filtering out the suspended lead particles in the water we were able to reduce the lead content therein to 0.1 ppm. Until these experiments we had no knowledge about the problem nor whether 0.1 ppm. of lead is toxic or not. I am attaching a copy of our report on this subject. Other methods are suggested using emulsifying agents with and without chemical reactants, detergents, solvents, air, steam, and various combinations thereof.

This type of problem seems to be one that the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation would have considerable knowledge on and would be the best qualified people to handle. I telephoned the Ethyl Gasoline Corp. here in Chicago and they suggested getting in touch with Dr. Kehoe or Dr. Machle of the University of Cincinnati. I then telephoned Dr. Machle and he stated this problem was a very difficult if not impossible one to solve in a practical and quick way.

In a discussion with Drs. Graham Edgar and Shafer in Washington about tendays ago Dr. Edgar advised that they had done some work along this line and later suggested getting in touch with Dr. Robert A. Kehoe. The matter was discussed with Dr. Kehoe over the phone yesterday and he advised that he was forwarding a letter on this matter, copy of which is attached. Dr. Kehoe and Dr. Edgar said they would be pleased to work on this problem.

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We are quite willing to help in any way we can.
Copies of this letter and our report are going to Drs.
Edgar and Kehoe.

Sincerely yours,

Gustav Egloff

GE:AB

cc Dr. Graham Edgar
Dr. Robert A. Kehoe