

November 29, 1929

Mr. E. W. Webb,
Ethyl Gasoline Corp.,
25 Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Webb:

Your letter of November 27 with its enclosures of letters questioning the use of Ethyl Gasoline in trucks, and Mr. Boyd's reply to same, has been received. It would appear to me that Mr. Boyd has satisfactorily disposed of the questions proposed to him and that no further discussion of the matter need be gone into.

In case you feel that because of Mr. Boyd's reference to further information from the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation, you wish to acknowledge receipt of the question, you might do so and state further that in addition to the investigations which have been carried on the Public Health Service under the Surgeon General's direction have kept careful watch on the Ethyl Gasoline situation for a number of years and have seen no occasion for modifying in any way the conclusions which were tentatively arrived at in 1925. I should not regard this latter as necessary, but it may be good policy to do so.

Very truly yours,

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ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION

25 BROADWAY

NEW YORK November 27, 1929.

**INTER-OFFICE
CORRESPONDENCE**

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe,

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

Enclosed is copy of letter from Mr. Boyd together with copy of the inquiry addressed to the Industrial Relations Section of General Motors, and his reply, also copy of my acknowledgment.

It seems to me Mr. Boyd has handled the subject exceptionally well and perhaps there is no occasion for communicating with the Jaxon Steel Products people but for the fact that he stated in his letter he was referring the matter to us. That of necessity does not mean we should do anything about it, but if after reviewing the matter you think we should, please advise.

Yours very truly,

very truly,
Oswald

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GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION
DETROIT, MICH.

November 25, 1929.

Mr. E. W. Webb,
Ethyl Gasoline Corp.,
25 Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Webb:

The attached correspondence, with regard to the use of Ethyl gasoline in trucks operating inside the plants of the Jaxon Steel Products Division, is self-explanatory.

It is being brought to your attention with the thought that you might like to have Dr. Kehoe know about it, and also to give you an opportunity to reply to Mr. Widmark's inquiry if you care to do so.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) T. A. Boyd

Fuel Section,
Research Laboratories.

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through your plants has been Director of the Research Laboratories; and he, in turn, has asked us to reply to it. We are, accordingly, giving below the best information we have on the subject. From this information it appears that no greater hazard to the health of your employees should arise from using Ethyl gasoline than from using ordinary motor gasoline. Nevertheless, we are sending a copy of your letter on to the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation with the request that they pass along to you any additional information that they may have which may bear upon the matter.

Two independent investigations of possible health hazards from the use of Ethyl gasoline have been made. The first, conducted by the United States Bureau of Mines, consisted in a long continued exposure of various types of animals for certain periods exposed to a definite concentration of the exhaust gas from an engine running on Ethyl gasoline. The exposures were made in a closed chamber to simulate the worst conditions as to times of exposure and concentration of exhaust gas in the air to which people could be exposed without being poisoned by the carbon monoxide in the exhaust gas. The tests were continued over a period of eight months in order to bring out possible accumulative effects. The conclusion reached on the basis of this work is summarized briefly in the following quotation from the report of it: "In summing up the investigation it can be stated that there has been no indication of plumbism in any of the animals used, though they were exposed for 188 days during a period of approximately 3 months to exhaust gases from ethyl gasoline in concentrations with respect to lead content that are several times that allowable from the standpoint of the carbon monoxide." The above is taken from the Reports of Investigations, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, Serial No. 2661, December, 1924, and entitled "Exhaust Gases from Engines Using Ethyl Gasoline."

The second investigation referred to above was conducted by a Committee appointed by Surgeon General H. S. Cummings of the United States Public Health Service. The investigation of this Committee was conducted on an extensive scale studying a large group of individuals who had been using and handling Ethyl gasoline, and of comparing the findings from this group with those obtained from a similar group employing ordinary motor gasoline. The conclusions of this Committee quoted from their report to the Surgeon General, which was made on January 17, 1926, were as follows:

1. Drivers of cars using ethyl gasoline as a fuel and in which the concentration of tetraethyl lead was not greater than 1 part to 1500 parts by volume of gasoline, showed no definite signs of lead absorption after exposures approximating two years.
2. Employees of garages engaged in the handling and repairing of automobiles and employees of automobile service stations may show evidence of lead absorption and storage, as indicated by the lead content of the feces and the appearance of

stippled cells in the blood. In garages and stations in which ethyl gasoline was used, the amount of apparent absorption and storage was somewhat increased, but the effect was slight in comparison with that shown by workers in other industries when there was a severe lead hazard (Group E) and for the periods of exposure studied was not sufficient to produce detectable symptoms of lead poisoning.

3. In the regions in which ethyl gasoline has been used to the greatest extent as a motor fuel for a period of between two and three years, no definite cases have been discovered of recognizable lead poisoning or other disease resulting from the use of ethyl gasoline."

(signed) T. A. Boyd

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CC: Messrs. F. O. Clements
C. L. Storck
E. W. Webb

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