

December 22, 1936

Mr. John Schaefer
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation
P. O. Box 688
Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Mr. Schaefer:

Please accept my thanks for your letter of December 15th with its information on methods of testing air samples for tetraethyl lead content. I will refer this to Machle for his information.

I appreciate your comments in your other letter of December 16th concerning the memorandum of November 30th on tank cleaning instructions for welders and repairmen. I saw, previously, your comments of a similar nature made in a letter to Mr. Lewis. The memorandum in question expressed my opinion about the problem, and I have not changed my opinion. There is a bare possibility that there may be some danger from gasoline fumes, and there might also be some small quantities of lead fumes. However I do not believe that there is likely to be any significant danger to repair men and welders in entering a tank that has been thoroughly cleaned. As you know, we are studying the entire problem and we are entirely willing to change our point of view if our investigation indicates that we are in error.

I think it must be borne in mind that this memorandum was issued to our own representatives with whom this entire question had been discussed in some detail. These men are all aware that there are aspects of this problem about which we are not sure, and that one of their jobs is to obtain further information. We can not set out by taking an unreasonable position, or what will be regarded as an unreasonable position by many of the people with whom we have to deal. On the other hand, we could take a position we ourselves regarded as reasonable even if they were to regard it as unreasonable, if we had adequate evidence on which to base our own conclusions. In the absence of such evidence, we are in a much stronger position if we require what seems to be entirely reasonable. If there is any significant exposure on the part of welders and repairmen, we shall be able to discover it and I feel quite confident that we shall be able to discover it without any intercurrent

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tragedies or serious injury to anyone. If I did not think this, I would certainly not have expressed myself as I did. Frankly I do not think there is even the most remote possibility that the type of exposure involved here will be of any significance.

I am expecting to be in New York at an early date. I can not say when because unforeseen difficulties here in the laboratory have deterred my plans considerably. However I hope to be there soon, and I think it would be wise if you, Lewis and myself were to get together at that time. I shall let you both know a day or two in advance in order to make that possible.

Very truly yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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