

July 18th, 1941

Mr. Oscar B. Lewis,
Ethyl Gasoline Corp.,
Chrysler Bldg.,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Oscar:-

On several tank cleaning jobs last winter, tremendous amounts of ice were found in the bottoms of some of the leaded gasoline tanks cleaned. In a few instances, this ice amounted to such tremendous proportions that it was just a physical impossibility to bury it all. In such cases, that portion of the ice remaining above the ground was well covered with sand, and dikes were built all around it to prevent its flowing away when it melted.

Ever since the warm weather, we have been after Socony to make certain that all of these points were properly taken care of. As most of them were abandoned bulk plants, the premises of which were kept locked, we felt that there was no real hazard, but we did not want to take any chances.

Last week, Socony assigned Mr. Floyd Wood, the best tank cleaning foreman in the Boston Division, to do this work, and we assigned Mr. Moseley to accompany him.

Just for the record, we are quoting herewith from Herb's report. "The balance of the week was spent in company with Wood. With him, I visited five plants of Socony which are listed below together with the work performed and the general conditions which were found and as they are at present.

"Westfield: Three pits had been left open but, as a generous amount of sand had been strewn over the ice, at the time of the cleaning, there was not any of the sludge or scale in evidence. As we shoveled the top three to four inches of sand and dirt into the bottom of the pits, all evidence of the sludge and scale were removed and the balance of the earth filled in the hole to a depth of about three feet.

"Falmouth: Five pits had been left open, two of which were very large and Wood stated that the pile of ice had been eight to ten feet in height. All of this material melted into the pits and none was found beyond the bank of earth surrounding the pits. Also sand had been applied to the top of the ice pile and no sludge or scale was exposed. We filled in the pits so that, rust, scale, and sludge is buried to a depth of some six feet.

"Hillsdale Park: A. A. Lash Company, a general contractor, has purchased this property.

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July 18th, 1941

To Mr. O. B. Lewis

"Brockton: Three sumps were found here and the same general conditions existed as above in that no material taken from the tanks could be seen on the ground having been covered with sawdust and sand. Rust, scale and other deposits were encountered just below the surface and this was shoveled into the bottom of the hole and covered with the balance of the earth. In one case, however, was a large sump into which had been pumped considerable exceedingly heavy oil which now presents about the same consistency as grease and some gasoline and surface water are seen when the entire mass is stirred. Our efforts to cover this over was not successful as when we filled in the sides, the center rose to such a height that it would overflow and when the center was sanded the sides rose. It will, in all probability, be necessary to cover this several times as the material oxidizes, otherwise anyone crossing this ground will sink waist-high to the bottom of the sump. A retaining wall, approximately, 10 to 12 feet high surrounds the property and during the day the plant is in operation as a district office and general warehouse. Therefore, the chances of a trespasser becoming involved in falling into the sump are slight.

"Fall River: Five pits had been excavated here and all had been filled in at the time that the tanks were cleaned. As this property has been sold we went in "over the fence" and when we spaded into the ground, some evidence of rust and scale could be seen. We recovered the area of the sumps with earth to a depth of about six inches, in the event that someone might easily uncover these tank deposits.

"I would say that all of these locations are entirely safe from our Company's standpoint, with the exception of the one sump in Brockton which I would suggest be followed again in about two months time."

Very truly yours,

M. A. Taylor

M. A. TAYLOR

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MAT/M

c.c. to Mr. R. A. Kehoe