

May 4, 1982

TO: Official Members
 LIA Environmental Health Committee
 LIA Energy Committee

FROM: Rosalind A. Volpe
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 Environmental Health

SUBJECT: EPA's Public Hearings on Lead in Gasoline

The Environmental Protection Agency's Public Hearings concerning Lead in Gasoline were held on April 15 and 16 at the Hyatt Arlington in Washington D.C. The issues considered at the hearings were: the overall standard, its environmental impacts, the health effects, the need for small refinery exemptions, for regulation of imported gasoline, the appropriate treatment of blenders, and the cost implications of the program.

Eighty-seven people testified at the hearings which lasted until 7:30 p.m. Friday evening. Several major oil companies and independent refiners said that the current standards which limit lead in gas to .5 grams per gallon (.5g/g) should be left intact. Some of the major companies, however, called for atleast some relaxation of the standard to save money and oil. All the major refiners agreed that whatever lead limits were imposed should apply to all companies. Mr. Starufels who represented National Petroleum Refiners Association and American Petroleum Institute favored rescission, but acknowledged it an extreme remedy given the current political situation and strong political sensitivity of the proceedings. The lead antiknock producers, the Lead Industries Association and some small refiners asked for total rescission of the standard.

Anti-lead activists such as Dr. G. Picomelli and Dr. Needleman, as well as representatives from the Environmental Defense fund, Consumers Union, and the Natural Resources Defense Council stated that stringent limits on lead in gasoline must be retained.

The Lead Industries Association presented six witnesses, Dr. J. F. Cole, Dr. C. Ernhart, Dr. Ed McCabe, Dr. P. Barry, Dr. P. Hammond, and Mr. J. Chisolm. Dr. Cole stated that rescission of the limitations will result temporarily in a slight increase in lead concentration in the ambient air which will then continue to decline as the natural phasedown continues. Analysis of 66 projected lead levels by E. I. duPont de Nemours Company indicate that the incremental air lead increase will be less than 0.5 ug/m³ in all regions impacted by mobile source emissions and only one Air

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Quality Control Region will potentially exceed the air lead standard by a small margin in 1983 due to motor vehicle activity if the phasedown is rescinded on October 1, 1982, but even that region would be in compliance in 1983.

The LIA witnesses presented testimony noting that a) the small increase in air lead levels would result in insignificant increased absorption of lead b) this increase will result in no adverse health effects and c) that there is no evidence of adverse health effects at low blood lead levels. The six LIA witnesses spoke to the health impact of a $.5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ air lead increase, stating that it would have minimal impact on the blood concentration of children.

Copies of the LIA Testimony and that of its witnesses are available on request.

Sincerely,

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