

Dr. Machle
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ETHYL CORPORATION

11 WEST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

H. A. Taylor

Eastern Region

H. C. Moseley

Wellesley, Mass.

Shell Oil Co. - Tank Cleaning
Montreal East, P.Q.

June 7, 1947.

Dear Kat,

During the period in which I made certain observations relative to tank cleaning operations at the above company's refinery, several incidents occurred which culminated in permission being given to the cleaning crew to enter this blending tank prior to the removal of all sludge, without airline hose mask equipment.

This order was given by a new Safety Assistant, who upon finding that the tank was gas-free allowed the cleaning Foreman to proceed with the remainder of the work without suitable protection.

The above decision was made during the time while I was having luncheon and discovered upon my return. The exposure time was approximately 20 minutes max, and would have been considerably less except that the Foreman, Henry Gagnon, refused to remove the men from the tank until so ordered by the "front office".

As a result of the above, together with other misunderstandings which had cropped up during the past two days, a refinery staff meeting was held and attended by all Department Heads concerned in tank cleaning and related activity. Results:

On May 29th, a new Safety Department had been organized headed by Personnel Director Cuthbertson with assistants Jenkins and Hayes. (No plant notice or bulleting was circularized to this effect and came as a complete surprise to all concerned.)

Refinery Manager West and his assistant Gilmore will be responsible for assigning tanks to be entered or cleaned and to notify the Ethyl Corp.

Maintenance Department will be in charge of actual cleaning operation.

Appointment of John Kneek, of the Engineering Office as general contact man for interchange of thought between various departments pertaining to tank cleaning or repairs.

Both Jim Baldwin and Jim Beckwith have spent considerable time with former Safety Engineer Jenkins and the above would have been avoided if Mr. Jenkins had been in the plant. During this period Mr. Jenkins was on vacation.

From the above, it will be noted that the appointment of Mr. Cuthbertson as Safety Director and new assistant Hayes has taken place since the last visit of Jim Beckwith and it was the admission of bot

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Messrs West and Gilmore that the foregoing difficulties were due to the lack of organization and interchange of thought between the various departments of the refinery and the top management and should not be construed as any criticism on the part of the Ethyl Corp. or any of its representatives.

A Safety meeting was held attended by Messrs. West, Gilmore, Cuthbertson, Hayes, and Kneck at which the hazards, precautions, and procedures of the entering and cleaning of tanks having contained leaded gasoline were outlined. I also gave them to understand that Jim Beckwith would visit the refinery as soon as convenient and acquaint them with additional details.

I have discussed the foregoing in detail with Jim Beckwith together with other matters pertaining to Medical Records, and dye content of Aviation Gasoline.

Upon leaving the Shell Refinery on Friday at the conclusion of the working day, the cleaning operation will begin again on Monday June 9th and at the rate of the past week will not be ready for inspection until Wednesday. In keeping with Jim Baldwin's orders, that we should not delay this work, I have given permission to Mr. Cuthbertson that the tank may be inspected from a lead-hazard standpoint by his department and have furnished a complete detailed definition of a "clean tank from a lead-hazard standpoint."

The Engineering Department has not made any determinations as to repairs in this tank, nor if any hot work is to be done. I have gone on record with the various departments involved that all hot work must be preceded by either wire brushing or sand blasting all portions to be heated. The major repair is to correct the mixing device which is for the most part, a piping operation.

Very truly yours,

H. C. Moseley

cc J.T. Beckwith.

6/10 This is the job Ellis Locken discussed with you. I have talked to Jim Beckwith today regarding this. He will get the names of the men involved and arrange to have them watched through 6/15. Long illness will be reported.

A. Baldwin

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Copy sent to
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11/13/47.

Mr. McCall

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Colony

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