

cc: Mr. H. R. Ball
Mr. R. L. Jordan

Mr. E. O. Jones

New York

Mr. L. W. Shank

Tulsa

February 11, 1949

Dear Ollie,

I am writing you in connection with our conversation concerning my findings on Aqua System Pits at Cecil Field, Jacksonville, Florida.

While at Cecil Field on other work with which you are familiar, Bob Jordan and I got into a conversation with the Navy Inspector, Mr. Frans, and one of the Navy personnel about the strong odor that was coming from the valve control and other concrete pits used in connection with the Aqua System at this field. We found out from them that there was frequent leakage of 100 octane gasoline containing 4.6cc of lead. This gasoline is spilled in various quantities and is sometimes pumped out, but most often the leaks and spills are allowed to evaporate. These pits had an unmistakable odor of TEL. In order to satisfy our curiosity we took a lead analysis reading on a typical pit and found that there was between 15 and 20 micrograms of lead present. Other pits smelled as strong or stronger and undoubtedly would have given the same or greater readings.

Further questioning developed the fact that men go into these pits sometimes as many as eight or ten times per day when dispensing gasoline and on other occasions repairmen work as many as several hours repairing leaks. Certainly this does not look like a very healthy situation. While I know that one swallow does not make a summer and our recognition of odor is not conclusive as to the pits not actually tested, I nevertheless believe that we may be up against something that will bear further investigation. There must be thousands of these things scattered around the country and if you think it worth while to make a survey, we would be only too happy to cooperate.

I am sending two copies of this to you as I thought you might wish to talk with Dr. Kehoe about the situation.

Yours very truly,

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