cc: Dr. Willard F. Machle
Dr. George Calingaert

ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION

CHRYSLER BUILDING
405 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK

October 31, 1941

Colonel C. A. Hoss
U. S. Quartermaster Corps
Third and C. Streets
Washington
D. C.

My dear Colonel Hoss:

Confirming our conversation of Wednesday last, the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation has received from time to time numerous inquiries concerning the utilization of leaded gasoline in Army stoves of one kind or another. These have come to us from oil companies and universities who in turn have received inquiries from some one in the Quartermaster Corps. They come to us from manufacturers of stoves who state that they have been requested by some one in the Quartermaster Corps to develop this, that or the other device for burning leaded gasoline. A recent inquiry from the Filtrol Company stated that Camp Holabird was about to begin experiments on the use of activated clay for removing lead from gasoline.

In the case of most of these inquiries, we have been unable to get a sufficiently detailed story to know what the problems really are.

As you are aware, we obtained from your office one of the Army field ranges and our Medical Department carried out experiments upon which a report was made some months ago. The general conclusion was that the range would function satisfactorily if directions were followed and that the removal of lead was adequate from a medical standpoint. Our Chemical Laboratory was also sent a stove from Fort Knox and came to somewhat similar conclusions.

Our impression is, at the moment, that it would be to the advantage of all parties if development work on the general problem could be under some centralized authority. The problem is two-fold. First, there is the question of the actual physical operation of the

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stove. Second, there is the question of sufficient removal of lead so that no physiological affects may be expected to result from the use of this stove. The Army field range accomplishes both of these requirements with reasonable satisfaction. It is quite possible, however, to accomplish the first one without the second.

Our own laboratories have studied some aspects of the problem and will be very glad, if desired, to contribute whatever they can to the picture. If further development work on stoves to burn tetraethyl lead is being carried out or is expected to be carried out by the Army, it would appear to us that a conference should be called which might well include representatives of the stove manufacturers, our own laboratories and the interested parties in the Quartermaster Corps so that the entire subject can be discussed and the problem laid on the table and appropriate experimental programs allocated in whatever way seems most desirable. If such a conference should be called, I would like to have present a representative of our Medical Department and one from our Research Laboratory.

Please be assured that we have no desire to interfere in any way with your plans on this problem and are only offering the above in the light of what seems to us to be a constructive suggestion.

Very truly yours,

Graham Edgar

EJ