

CLIFFORD W. AXTELL
Attorney and Counselor at Law
Axtel Bldg.
Thermopolis, Wyoming

February 5, 1947

Re: [REDACTED] Vs. City of
Thermopolis (Ethyl Gas)

Dr. L. W. Sanders, M.D.
College of Medicine
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Dr. Sanders:

Your report in the above case was very concise and satisfactory. In your letter, you request the names of the Mayo doctors who reported that lead poisoning of the claimant might have been caused by absorption from gasoline.

Their names are: Dr. C.W. Rucker and Dr.P.H. Hersema.

It would seem to me that these doctors shot off half cocked or that they never knew of the small amount of gasoline handled by [REDACTED], or that they had not given the matter sufficient study. If by finding some lead in urine 3 or 4 years after a man came in contact with Tetraethyl gasoline in small quantities of 2-1/4 gallons per month, used in starting small engine and cleaning some machinery, a doctor can say that lead poisoning was contracted by absorption through the skin, it would seem that your profession would be assuming physical facts based upon the wildest imagination. I would not think that a Doctor connected with an institution like Mayos would want to be placed in a position of this kind.

If you desire, I would be very glad if you would take the matter up with these doctors as I believe they might change or qualify their statement in the matter to the Court.

This case is not a matter effecting greatly the rights of the individual claimant, as he is eligible for a blind pension under the State Laws and from the State, but if the case here should succeed, it would leave the door open for a vast number of claims against Oil producers and refineries.

Thanking you for your cooperation, I remain,

Yours very truly

Signed: C. W. Axtell