

Confidential

Dr. K. C. Charron,
Chief,
Industrial Health Division,
Jackson Bldg.

455-10-13

Kingsley Kay

August 9, 1950.

Con Arsenic Disposal

I have carefully studied Mr. Jewitt's letter of 27th July to Mr. Gibson. It would seem that a decision on the matter of rock basin storage is going to have to await the completion of the survey they are doing.

As we discussed, the last sentence in the first paragraph which makes mention of "possible excess of solution" is disturbing for, in effect, they are suggesting that the rock basin may not contain the arsenic. This is a peculiar point to raise in connection with a system of storage and the assurances which they offer that provision will be made to treat any overflow with lime, so as to render it harmless, are not convincing. Quite apart from the impropriety which would exist if they asked for approval of a scheme involving overflow, the chemistry of the lime -- arsenic trioxide slurry reaction has never been worked out, either in the laboratory or on paper.

Mr. Traill and I discussed the chemistry of this matter yesterday, and we are agreed that experiments would be necessary to determine what reaction would occur between the lime and the slurry. In any event, this matter of lime as a possible detoxifying agent is only carrying us further away from the problem which is to effect immediate and complete storage of this dangerous material.

KK:ik