



NZ TEL-exposed refinery shift operator compensation claim - letters to The LEAD Group



From: Brian Clinton ARNDT
Sent: Tuesday, June 21, 2016
To: The LEAD Group
Subject: ex-Refinery Operator, New Zealand
brianarndt@xtra.co.nz

Dear Sirs,

I was employed as an Operator at the Refinery located at Whangarei, New Zealand. The refining plant was situated at Marsden Point because of its nearness to deep water facilities. We had to operate a manual plant, the lead arrived in a small cargo ship in approx 44 gallon drums the drums were double lined with a neutralizing liquid in the lining. The lead was used to increase octane ratings. After removing the outer cap a 3 inch approx plug was removed and the lead was then drawn by vacuum into the blending vessels. I left the Refinery in 1975 after having been there for 10 years. The manual system was removed in the late 70's apparently to make the plant more efficient, an inline sealed unit was installed. It is now known this was done for health concerns and the Management "lost" or can't find employment and health/safety records. [See 19770111 Advocate newspaper article Lead industry procedures not archaic - Dr Wilson below.]



Can you please help me with a document detailing the health hazards of this substance as I am claiming for health issues against my old Employer, who have now reluctantly agreed to the plant being there. I have had both breasts removed, extensive hormone/radiation to the prostate, countless squamous cells removed from head/arms and have lost all my teeth to what appears lead crumble. Please can you help me or direct me where to go. The lead plant was never registered in NZ. Best Regards, Brian.

Photo of Brian Arndt, 29 July 1976, aged 25 (born 2nd August 1940)

[The above email was not seen by The LEAD Group until Brian sent his third email in June 2019]



-----Original Message-----
From: Brian Arndt



Sent: Monday, December 4, 2017
To: The LEAD Group
Subject: Organic Lead Absorption.

Dear Sirs,

I was employed in the NZ Refinery at Marsden Point, Whangarei.

My job as a shift operator frequently involved work in the TEL/TML bulk plant. The tetramethyl and tetraethyl lead was transferred by inducting the liquid lead into the bulk vessels for blending regular and premium petrol. Safety gear was minimal, health checks non-existent and there was no warnings or training with this extremely toxic material. It has now been uncovered that the Company destroyed all records that involved any persons involved with this, now known extremely toxic substance. I am trying to find where I can obtain K fluoro X-rays to prove my lead/bone absorption levels. I have managed to have my teeth assessed for lead content by Dr Malcolm Reid at Otago University [see *20170811 Otago University lead analysis of Brian Arndt's teeth* below] and they are 1659% above normal controls. The Authorities are saying I must have had "Lead Fillings". Please can you help me find where to go to have these X-rays to prove my case and hopefully gain recognition for myself and a lot of dead men. Thank-you so much.

Brian Arndt

This e-mail was sent from a contact form on LeadSafeWorld by The LEAD Group Inc.
(<http://www.lead safeworld.com>)

[Although Elizabeth O'Brien replied immediately to the above email with contact details for bone x-ray fluorescence – bone XRF -testing by Dr Howard Hu or Dr David Chettle, no reply was received from Brian Arndt until June 2019]



From: Brian Arndt
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2019
To: The LEAD Group
Subject: Re: Exposure to Tetra-Ethyl Lead.

Dear Elizabeth,

So nice to talk with you just now on the phone.

I have included a summary of my Medical History, in hind sight I should have said in my summary that I've had balance issues developed within a year of working at the Refinery.

As the Refinery covertly operated under the cover of being a "Licensed Customs Bonded Area" they avoided all controls and checks from the Ministries of Health and Labour. I



have managed to obtain Government Files of their attempts to view Operations and recommendations to test the workers for lead.

[See the following articles below this series of letters:

19640313 Medical officer proposal to deal with extremely toxic TEL & TML;

19650512 NZ Refining Co on List of Factories to be visited by Public Health Nurses;

19651208 Dept of Health letter re considerable risk of lead poisoning from handling leaded sludge;

19651223 Dept of Health letter emphasising lead-safety & PPE for handling leaded sludge;

19660128 Dept of Health letter re Octel SS Limerick spill & brochure on hazards of TEL & TML;

196405 Octel Bulletin No 12 The safe handling of Octel Antiknock compounds (the above mentioned brochure)]

When they removed the Manual Lead System in 1977 because of health issues with Employees they shredded all employment records and the standards of PPE were very low and no Health checks were done on the Plant Operators. The plant was replaced with a fully automated system supplied by a dedicated ship from Innospec [then known as Associated Octel].

Thank you for your time taken to read my sorry story and if you can help me you will be my Angel for the rest of my life.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Arndt.

Brian Arndt: Summary of my Medical History

Dear Elizabeth,

I have found your contacts via The LEAD Group that you promote and to your credit have devoted yourself to.

As a young man I was employed as a Shift Operator at New Zealand's only Refinery at Marsden Point, Whangarei. I started work in early 1965 and left late 1975.

A lot of time was spent operating the "Manual Lead Transfer and Blending Plant".

After a few months I observed that I was becoming sexually dysfunctional and started having Psychotic Dreams - often violent in nature. I awoke one morning to find my Wife



lying in bed bleeding and crying, to my shame I had attacked her in my sleep. I still get violent dreams to this day. My marriage ended as a result and I ceased work at the Refinery in late 1975.

1976/77 saw me getting dental worries - mainly teeth crumbling - and this lasted until 2016 when I had all my teeth removed. My teeth have tested for lead levels of 1659% above Normal Controls. [See 20170811 Otago University lead analysis of Brian Arndt's teeth below.] When the teeth were removed, I could taste Lead in my mouth for a couple of days.

In the early 1980's I found recurring Squamous Cancers occurring all over my body. In late 1980's I had a tumour removed from my left lung which was followed by Right Breast Cancer 2010 finally Prostate Cancer in early 2012 resolved by Hormone and Radiation treatment completed in late 2013.

The only fortunate incident was breaking my neck in 1980 as a very observant Orthopedic Surgeon tested and found I had damaged the C5 nerve canal that carries the nerve system for the control of the "Involuntary Muscles" and put me onto a large dosage of Psyllium which we now know helps to remove heavy metals from the body. From the time of the surgery for Lung Cancer I have taken large amounts of Vitamin C and continue to this day having 3000 units of Lypo-Spheric Vit C and since June 2018 have also taken 10 grams a day of MSM. I continue with Squamous Cancers continually being treated with "Efudix Cream" with Surgical removals as required.

Please can you help me with some Authoritative Evidence to use with my case for help for funding from our Health and Workers Compensation Authorities.

[See the following articles in this newsletter, prepared for publication in response to the above request:

IARC Evaluation of Lead as a Human Carcinogen 2006 –Organic Lead (TEL/TML) & Skin / Dermal Exposure extracts;

Hunter's The Diseases of Occupations - Lead Poisoning 1955-1975;

19651126 Dept of Health letter re safe handling & disposal of leaded sludge;

Lead scavengers & other carcinogens in gasoline, New Zealand 1965-1975;

Associations between Brian Arndt's non-cancer health issues and his occupational exposures]

My problem is that there are no Health Records here for me to use in an upcoming Court Case.



Please can you help me,

Yours faithfully,

Brian Arndt.



From: Brian Arndt

Sent: Monday, June 17, 2019 3:17 PM

To: Elizabeth O'Brien

Subject: Re: Research on the Toxic Effects of Organic Lead.

Dear Elizabeth,

Thanks for your very informative and helpful email.

I still have psychotic concerns ie. very lurid and violent dreams.

I am worried that I am finding increasing memory problems which is of concern and while at the Refinery I developed an anger problem, fly off the handle easy which I have tried to and mainly now have controlled.

The sexual dysfunction became apparent within 6 months of starting work and this has been the case for the last 54 years.

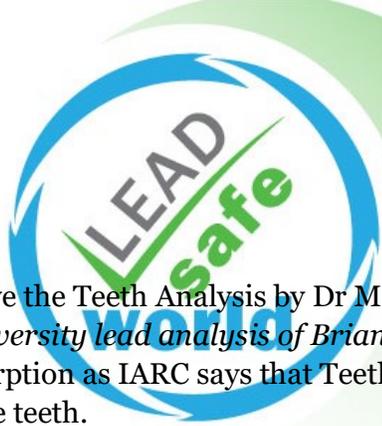
Squamous Cancers and Balance Problems are still a major concern to this day. I guess I could be described as a bit of a mess but one has to keep on trying and smell the roses.

Lead whole Bloods showed as 0.05 umol/L (1.04 ug/dL) in Aug. 2017 and 0.04 umol/L (0.83 ug/dL) in Oct. 2018. My Dr. believes that these have been reduced by my use of Psyllium, Lypo-Spheric Vit. C and MSM 10 grams per day. These have also been approved by Dr. Levi from the USA.

I have saved up and have NZ\$5000 that I can use for further travel for testing/assessment. Your thoughts would be greatly appreciated as I can't find an Occupational Dr. here who is not contracted to the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) [*Editor's note: See Lead Poisoning – ACC Review Issue 16 (March 2005) published below in this newsletter (because it is no longer online) which gives the ACC motto as "Prevention Care Recovery" so hopefully, since prevention has failed in Brian Arndt's case, some assistance with Care and Recovery can be provided by ACC.*]

Best regards and heartfelt thanks,

Brian Arndt.



PS. I believe the Teeth Analysis by Dr Malcolm Reid at Otago University [see 20170811 *Otago University lead analysis of Brian Arndt's teeth* below] is sufficient evidence for Lead Absorption as IARC says that Teeth are the most reliable as there is no apatite of Bone in the teeth.



From: Brian Arndt
Sent: Friday, June 21, 2019
To: The LEAD Group
Subject: Re: Historic Files Relating to Tetraethyl Lead and Health Issues.

Hi Elizabeth,

It's really nice of you to give me your time and attention, I thank you so much.

Please see the historic files (following this series of letters) as below:-

1. Renewal of Licence, Annual Certificate, of note no mention of Lead Transfer and Blending Plant. Dated 12th January 1982. [See 19820112 *New Zealand Refining Co Renewal of Licence application*, below.]
2. The original 1966 plan of New Zealand Refining Company Limited plot, as updated in February 1972, showing the TEL plant. [See 19661224-197702 *New Zealand Refining Co Ltd Overall Plot Plan*, below.]
3. Proposed Plan of Plant Extensions, believed drawn late 70's. NB TEL Plant shown centre right by Gasoline Compound. [See 1978 or 1979 *NZ Refining Co Proposed Extensions showing Gasoline Comps (TEL plant)*, below.]
4. Schedule of Air Polluting Chemicals in "Expanded Refinery" NB Lead use 0.84 grams per Litre. [See 19790125 *Northern Advocate article: Doctors back campaign for safer petrol in New Zealand*, below, which says: "Marsden Pt refined petrol is boosted by twice the amount of lead as that of most European countries"; and the two pages 198004 *NZ Refining Co Air Polluting Chemicals (Pb in petrol) in Present & Expanded Refinery*, in the article below titled "The Lead Content of Petrol/Gasoline in New Zealand 1965-1975".]
5. Simplified Flow Scheme of Expanded Refinery. [See 198004 *NZ Refining Co Simplified Flow Scheme of Expanded Refinery*, below the article below titled "The Lead Content of Petrol/Gasoline in New Zealand 1965-1975".]

The last 2 as above appear to be published April 1980.

Have just received an email from the District Court The Refinery is trying to be excused as Second Respondent maintaining they have no responsibility and want to be removed from the proceedings because they "reject my account of working conditions and lead handling



practices” (See 20190619 NZ Refining seeking to be removed from Arndt Vs ACC & NZ Refining case, below).

I am really feeling the pressure some “Big Gun” Legal Firms are getting involved.

We are having a problem to find independent Medical Consultants here.

Sincere and best regards,

Brian.



From: Brian Arndt
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2019
To: Elizabeth O'Brien
Subject: Re: Tetraethyl Lead Health Problems.

Hi Elizabeth,

These are the symptoms that I suffered with in order how they happened:-

Troubled sleep and disturbed broken sleep.

Psychotic dreams.

Anger and short temper concerns would get upset easily.

Approximately after 6 months, sexually inadequate, which has lasted all my life to date.

Early on Balance problems and still ongoing.

Early 70's developing dental problems. New Dentist in 1977 said “you must be a Refinery Boy. I see a lot of you blokes with teeth like these.”

Broken neck 6th Jan 1980.

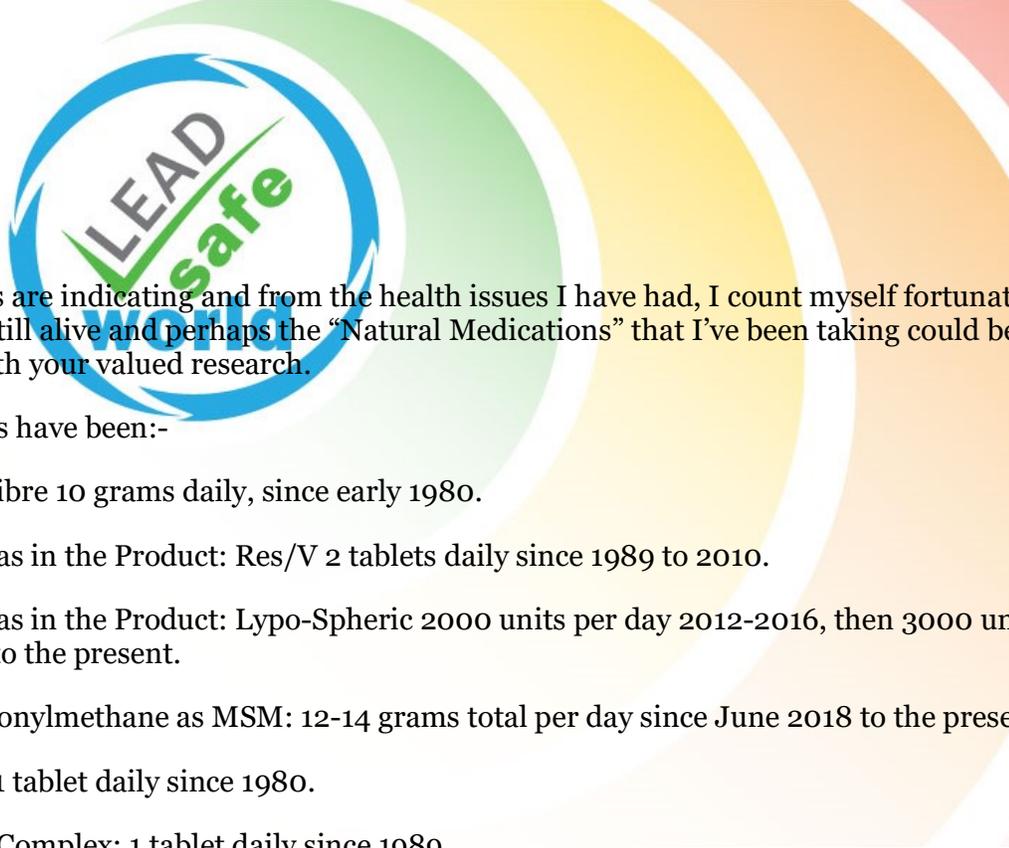
Neurological worries and depression still to this day.

Lung Cancer 1989 after breaking a rib 18 months earlier.

Breast Cancer 2010/11.

Prostate Cancer 2012 treatment completed 2013/14.

Teeth extracted Jan 2016. NB as local pain killers abated in 2 hours I could taste TEL coming from tooth sockets in jaw and skull.



As my tests are indicating and from the health issues I have had, I count myself fortunate that I am still alive and perhaps the “Natural Medications” that I’ve been taking could be of interest with your valued research.

My dosages have been:-

Psyllium Fibre 10 grams daily, since early 1980.

Vitamin C as in the Product: Res/V 2 tablets daily since 1989 to 2010.

Vitamin C as in the Product: Lypo-Spheric 2000 units per day 2012-2016, then 3000 units Jan. 2016 to the present.

Methylsulfonylmethane as MSM: 12-14 grams total per day since June 2018 to the present.

Probiotic: 1 tablet daily since 1980.

Vitamin B Complex: 1 tablet daily since 1989.

Joint Care Advanced: 1 tablet daily since 1989.

Vitamin D: 1 tablet per month since 2016.

The most positive testing result has possibly been indicated by the regeneration of the Macular Base in my eyes which have shown regrowth in the last 2 years.

Hope this gives you an insight into me a little,

More thanks and regards,

Brian Arndt.

From: Brian Arndt

Sent: Sunday, July 28, 2019

To: Elizabeth O'Brien

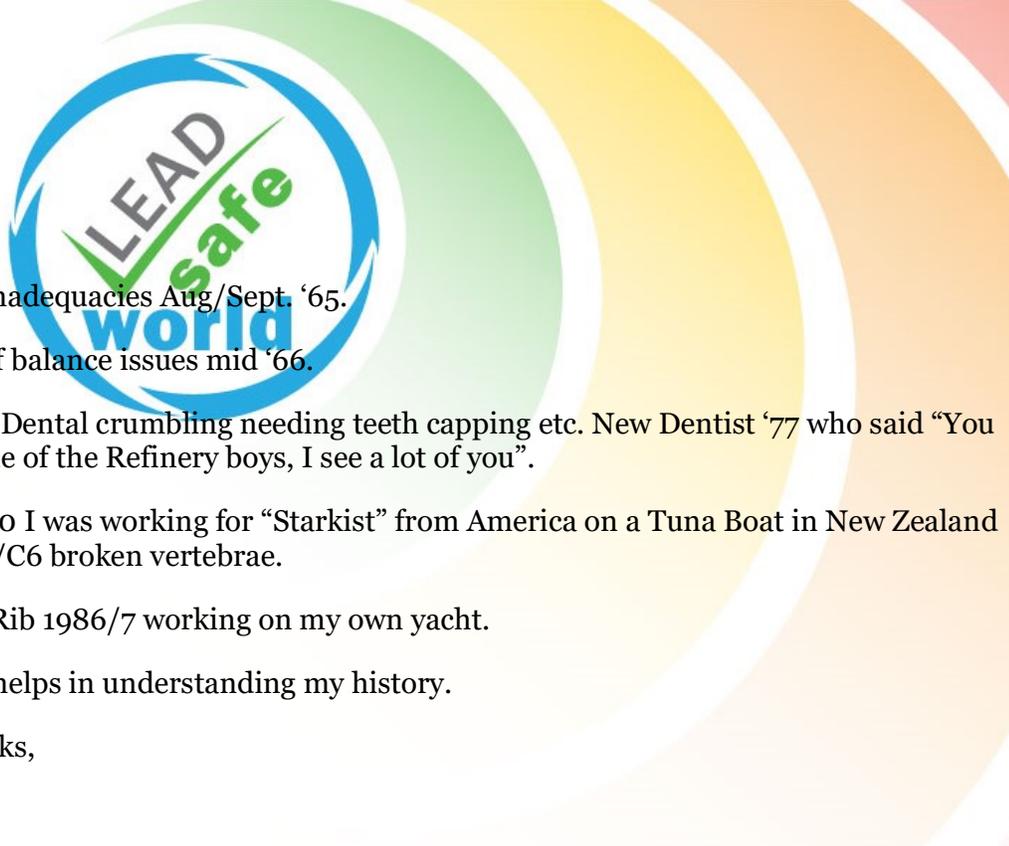


Subject: Re: Tetraethyl Lead Health Problems - please add detail of falls + IARC text.

Hi Elizabeth,

With reference to your email questions:-

1. I started at the Refinery early March 1965, second week I think.
2. Neurological problems, ie. Psychotic dreams, short temper etc about July '65 including sleep problems.



3. Sexual inadequacies Aug/Sept. '65.

4. Aware of balance issues mid '66.

5. 1972/73 Dental crumbling needing teeth capping etc. New Dentist '77 who said "You must be one of the Refinery boys, I see a lot of you".

6. Jan. 1980 I was working for "Starkist" from America on a Tuna Boat in New Zealand waters. C5/C6 broken vertebrae.

7. Broken Rib 1986/7 working on my own yacht.

Hope this helps in understanding my history.

Many thanks,

Brian.

Editor's Note: on Monday 29th July 2019 Brian Arndt wrote to his solicitor (from the union he belonged to when working at the refinery): "Having done a lot of work over the weekend I have completed my own Memorandum." [See 20190729 Brian Arndt's requests for restricted document release & Medical review prior to Appeal Court Hearing, below. Brian Arndt's 29th July 2019 Memorandum included one wrong figure: 9 g/L of lead in New Zealand petrol 1965-1975 should have said 0.9 g/L, or, if Associated Octel is to be believed, actually 0.84 g/L as of 1968.]
