



**THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON**

April 22, 2005

Henry D. Royal, M.D.  
Scientific Chairman  
Veterans' Advisory Committee on Environmental  
Hazards  
Division Nuclear Medicine  
Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology  
510 S. Kingshighway Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63110-1076

Dear Dr. Royal:

Thank you for your letter, co-signed by Colonel Mary StremLOW, Full Chairwoman, dated February 18, 2005, recommending that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) use only the newer Interactive RadioEpidemiological Program (IREP) to calculate probability of causation for radiation compensation claims and stop using older screening doses from the Committee on Interagency Radiation Research and Policy Coordination (CIRRPC).

As previously recommended by the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Environmental Hazards, VA's Office of Public Health and Environmental Hazards (OPHEH) currently is using the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's version of the IREP software in parallel with the CIRRPC screening doses, when applicable. The methodologies most favorable to veterans, not necessarily more accurate, are currently utilized in formulating medical advisory opinions.

While I recognize that use of the IREP exclusively will result in fewer favorable medical opinions, I believe it is important that VA use the most accurate scientific information and methodologies available in the claims adjudication process. Therefore, I am accepting the recommendation of the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Environmental Hazards and directing that the OPHEH use only the IREP and stop using the CIRRPC method.

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Dr. Henry Royal

Please feel free to contact Susan H. Mather, M.D., M.P.H., Chief Public Health and Environmental Hazards Officer or Neil S. Otchin, M.D., Program Chief for Clinical Matters, in the OPHEH for questions or further discussion.

I appreciate the assistance that your Committee provides to our Department.

Sincerely yours,

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Gordon H. Mansfield



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Colonel Mary StremLOW, USMCR (Ret.)  
Full Chairwoman  
Veterans' Advisory Committee on Environmental  
Hazards  
5702 Old Lakeshore Road  
P. O. Box 36  
Lake View, NY 14085

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Colonel Mary StremLOW

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