

**NEW JERSEY STATE COUNCIL  
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
AGENT ORANGE /DIOXIN COMMITTEE** FEB 21 1995  
**P. O. BOX 1229  
BAYONNE, NJ 07002**

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February 15, 1995

Dr. Harold Fallon, Chairman  
Committee To Review The Health Effects In Vietnam Veterans Of Exposure To Herbicides  
National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine  
2101 Constitution Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20418

Dear Dr. Fallon,

At the January meeting of Admiral Zumwalt's Agent Orange Coordinating Council, it was mentioned that release of the second Opinion would be delayed possibly until 1996. Dr. Fallon, I do hope that what I heard was incorrect.

The Agent Orange Act of 1991 provides that "The agreement between the Secretary and the National Academy of Sciences shall require the Academy to transmit to the Secretary and the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives periodic written reports regarding the Academy's activities under the agreement. Such reports shall be submitted at least once every two years (as measured from the date of the first report)."

Should the report be delayed, I do hope it is because you are weighing strong evidence that further illnesses should be tied to exposure to herbicides not because of the Committees' inaction. We Vietnam Veterans, who have endured over twenty years of government inaction and cover-up should not have to be subjected to further delays by the Committee.

I also wonder why the Committee has not taken further action on Peripheral Neuropathy. This disorder was about to be "Service Connected" by the Department of Veterans Affairs just prior to release of your first report. The DVA had judged that disorder to be related to exposure. Did their studies in that area suddenly become unreliable or not sufficient?

Since release of your first report, there seems to be a pall cast over this issue. The euphoria in Washington during July - September 1993 has given way to apathy. We do hope that your Committee has not "given up".

Sincerely yours,



Michael Eckstein, Chairman

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cc: Doc Bronson, President, NJ State Council, Vietnam Veterans of America  
✓ Admiral E. R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (Ret.) - Agent Orange Coordinating Council