

New Jersey Agent Orange Commission

CN 672

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0672

FAX

James H. Burdge *

Michael Eckstein *

George M. Fallon *

Robert J. Haney, Esq., *
Chairman

Patrick Keating *

Edward Kloss, Esq., *

Edward Lavelle, Esq., *

Paul Scipione Ph.D. *

William Siebel *

William W. Lewis *
Executive Director

* Vietnam Veteran

July 22, 1996

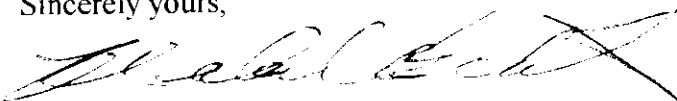
Admiral E. R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (Ret.)

Dear Admiral Zumwalt,

Thank you for sending me a copy of New Jersey State Treasurer Brian W. Clymer's May 20, 1996 letter to you. As you know, Governor Whitman line-item vetoed the funding for the Commission that was reinserted by the New Jersey Legislature. I guess sending you my reply to Mr. Clymer's letter (also sent to others within the State, copy enclosed) is now meaningless, but I wanted you to know how wrong he is and how the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs misled the Governor and her staff.

As Commission members, we still intend to proceed with our proposed agenda. I've enclosed a copy for you.

Sincerely yours,



Michael Eckstein
Commission Member

Michael Eckstein
9 Beverly Rd.
Starhope, NJ 07874-2433

cc: Robert Haney, Esq. - Chairman, New Jersey Agent Orange Commission

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FAX

(3 pages)
by Fax

May 29, 1996

James H. Burdge *

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* Vietnam Veteran

*Mr. Bryan W. Clymer, State Treasurer
State of New Jersey
CN 002
Trenton, NJ 08625-0002*

Re: New Jersey Agent Orange Commission

Dear Treasurer Clymer,

I received a copy, from the 9th Legislative District Offices, of your May 2, 1996 letter to Senator Connors and Assemblymen Moran and Connors. There is one glaring error and one misconception in your reply. First, all three staff members, not two as stated, received lay-off notices. You also state that the lay-off of our staff would "IN NO WAY JEOPARDIZE THE ABILITY OF THE COMMISSION TO CARRY OUT ITS WORK ON BEHALF OF OUR VIETNAM VETERANS." That statement is also totally without merit as our staff has the technical capability that no individual at DMAVA possesses.

Mr. William W. Lewis, Executive Director has been at the forefront of research and outreach related to Agent Orange as no other state employee in the country. Our Commission was invited by the National Academy of Sciences to be an integral part of NEW studies and research looking into exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides. These new studies will be funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Bill Lewis, on May 22-23, 1996 in Washington, D.C., attended an NAS workshop related to preparing the way for the studies.

Your pledge to use taxpayers dollars more efficiently is well meaning and as a taxpayer I support your call. However, to replace a dedicated and experienced staff with desk-top administrators who have no research capabilities nor experience is not cost effective.

Sincerely yours,



*Michael Eckstein
Commission Member*

*cc: Governor Christine Todd Whitman
Senator Connors, Assemblyman Moran, Assemblyman Connors
Senators Littell and Inverso*



State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER

CN-002

TRENTON NJ 08625-0002

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN
Governor

BRIAN W. CLYMER
State Treasurer

May 2, 1996

MAY 08 1996

Honorable Christopher J. Connors, Assemblyman
Honorable Leonard T. Connors, Jr., Senator
Honorable Jeffrey W. Moran, Assemblyman

Dear Senator and Assemblyman:

Your letter of January 5 to Governor Whitman regarding the New Jersey Agent Orange Commission has been referred to me for review and response. The Governor's FY 1997 Budget proposes to eliminate two support staff from the Agent Orange Commission and reassign the administrative duties to existing workforce in the Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs. Please be assured that this proposal will in no way jeopardize the ability of the Commission to carry out its work on behalf of our Vietnam veterans. Our proposal will ensure that continued administrative support will be available to the Commission at all times, while fulfilling our pledge to our taxpayers to use State resources more efficiently.

I hope that this assurance eases your concerns about the New Jersey Agent Orange Commission. Please do not hesitate to contact me at if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Brian W. Clymer
State Treasurer



MAY 28 1996

State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER

CN-002

TRENTON NJ 08625-0002

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN
Governor

BRIAN W. CLYMER
State Treasurer

May 20, 1996

Mr. E. R. Zumwalt, Jr.
Admiral, USN (Ret.)

P
cc to KCH/SHM

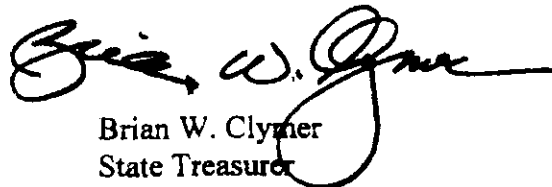
Dear Mr. Zumwalt:

Governor Whitman has referred your letter regarding the New Jersey Agent Orange Commission to me for response.

The Governor's FY 1997 budget does not propose to eliminate members of the Agent Orange Commission. Rather, it would eliminate two support staff and reassign the administrative duties to existing workforce in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs. Not only would this action ensure that continued administrative support will be available to the Commission at all times, but will provide New Jersey taxpayers with a more efficient use of State resources.

The Governor and I appreciate the importance of this Commission and share your concern that the work of this Commission be allowed to continue.

Sincerely,


Brian W. Clymer
State Treasurer

NEW JERSEY AGENT ORANGE COMMISSION - PROPOSED PROJECTS

- 1) NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, WASHINGTON, D.C. - Continued involvement with the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine for research into the adverse health effects due to exposure to herbicides;
- 2) BIRTH DEFECTS REGISTRY - Continued cooperation on the Birth Defects Registry with the Florida based Association of Birth Defect Children.
- 3) HEALTH CARE PROVIDER'S GUIDE - Preparation of a booklet addressing the types of illnesses that doctors and health care providers in New Jersey might encounter in dealing with Vietnam Veterans exposed to herbicides.
- 4) SURVEY - A survey of all New Jersey physicians asking them to provide information on the types of illnesses treated that might relate to chemical exposure.
- 5) AGENT ORANGE REFERENCE GUIDE - Up-dating of the current Reference Guide.
- 6) DAILY OUTREACH - This daily occurrence will be continual outreach to veterans.
- 7) ORGANIZATIONAL OUTREACH - Project status reports will be included in more detail in the "Agent Orange Update."
- 8) INTERNET ACCESS - We would like the Commission to have a "Web" page, preferably within the New Jersey Web site.
- 9) GULF WAR DATA - We will be working, this summer, with ABDC to provide data in the Fall for the Presidential Commission studying Gulf War vets.
- 10) PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY - The VA will be posting the rule-making, in the Federal Register, on the newest add-ons to Agent Orange claims. There will then be a period of public comment. We can provide info and comment and encourage others to comment and try to push the VA to consider chronic Peripheral Neuropathy

NOTE THAT THIS AGENDA WAS PREPARED PRIOR TO GOVERNOR WHITMAN'S LINE-ITEM VETO OF THE STAFF'S BUDGET.

Mike Eckstein