



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 20 1978

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Honorable Joseph M. Hendrie
Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Hendrie:

Recently the President issued new guidance to Federal agencies designed to provide radiation protection for uses of diagnostic x-rays in the healing arts. The guidance, which is based on recommendations that Surgeon General Julius Richmond and I transmitted to the President, was published in the Federal Register on February 1, 1978. Since the guidance applies to all Federal agencies that utilize x-ray exposure of employees or others, I am bringing the matter to your attention and enclosing a copy for your information. I believe the Federal agencies can demonstrate to the nation that unproductive x-ray exposure can be reduced.

The primary bases for the guidance were developed by an Interagency Working Group on Medical Radiation which EPA established in 1974. We are continuing the work of this Group to identify other areas in the healing arts where reduction in radiation exposure could be accomplished, to coordinate the implementation of the guidance, and to develop information for periodically reporting to the President on the progress of implementation of the guides. This Group will contact your agency in the near future to ascertain areas where it may be able to provide coordination and assistance. Any questions you may have about the functions and activities of the Interagency Working Group or the interpretation and applicability of the guidance can be referred to Dr. DeVaughn Nelson of our Office of Radiation Programs. He can be reached by phone at (703) 557-8927.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Douglas M. Costle", is written over a circular stamp. The stamp contains the name "Douglas M. Costle" in a serif font.

Douglas M. Costle

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Julius Richmond

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