



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Health Administration
National Health Physics Program
2200 Fort Roots Drive
North Little Rock, AR 72114**

MAR 18 2002

In Reply Refer To: 598/115HP/NLR

Orysia Masnyk-Bailey
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Region II
Division of Nuclear Material Safety
61 Forsyth Street, SW, Suite 23T85
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

Dear Ms. Masnyk-Bailey,

I am responding to your telephone request of March 13, 2002, to clarify the authority of a chief executive officer or director to exercise authority to approve funding. I confirm chief executive officers or directors have authority under the Department of Veterans Affairs organizational structure to approve funding for medical centers and their activities associated with an NRC license to include decommissioning funding.

The authority is based on the director's appointment under 38 U.S.C., Chapter 74. Duties, responsibilities, and authorities are outlined in Department of Veterans Affairs Manual MP-5, Part II "VA Human Resources Management Policy." Per Section B.1.a., the director "has overall responsibility for planning, organizing, directing, coordinating, and controlling medical, administrative, and supporting operations of a medical facility."

If you have any questions, please contact Gary E. Williams, VHA National Health Physics Program, at (501) 257-1572.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Lynn McGuire".

E. Lynn McGuire
Director, National Health Physics Program