

# SCHOOL OF NUCLEAR ENGINEERING

Atlanta, Georgia 30332

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November 15, 1979

Mr. R. E. Alexander  
12811 Lee-Jackson Highway  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Bob:

For some time I have been wanting to write you and express my appreciation and gratitude that you are putting up a battle for us in health physics that believe in our profession. In particular, two things came to mind: 1) Retention of the \$1000 per man rem and 2) Opposition to acceptance of ICRP No. 26 recommendations.

I became curious this summer when someone from Harwell insisted that they were putting pressure on the U.S. NRC to reduce the \$1000 man rem down to \$100 and fall in line with the U.K. If the NRC gives in on this, I won't!

The suggestion to take the lowest values of MPC (or DAC) for water and air of the three choices 1) ICRP-No. 2 handbook, 2-ICRP No. 26 based on 50 rem/y or 3-ICRP No. 26 based on the values of  $W_i$  is a giant step in the right direction and might do as an interim measure but some of the calculations are based on data that reflects a lower risk than much of the data would suggest. For example, values for Pu-239 should be much lower and would be if the ICRP had used the right biological data. I believe Mary Rose Ford at ORNL with some help could come up with better values which are more consistent with the present state of knowledge.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Karl Z. Morgan  
Neely Professor of  
Nuclear Engineering

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