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OSD1.941104.010- Dr. Walske has seen



OFFICE OF THE
THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
WASHINGTON

Fed. Rad Council

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have been advised that Dr. Gerrit L. Hekhuis, your Department's representative on the Board of Editorial Advisors of our departmental monthly publication, Radiological Health Data and Reports, has been transferred from the Defense Atomic Support Agency and is no longer in a position to serve on the Board. We were indeed pleased to have Dr. Hekhuis as your representative and we wish to recognize his valued services while a member.

Members of this group are designated by the Secretaries of the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and Defense, the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, and the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. The Chairman is Mr. James G. Terrell, Jr., Director of our National Center for Radiological Health. The Center is an organizational component of the Public Health Service's Bureau of Disease Prevention and Environmental Control.

The role of a Board member is essentially one of advising us concerning our publishing of data on environmental radiation, such as natural background, X rays, isotopes and fallout and assisting in directing relevant departmental data in these areas to our attention. This publication function stems from a 1959 Presidential directive to our Department to assume primary responsibility within the Executive Branch for the collation, analysis, and interpretation of these data.

May we invite your nomination of a member of your Department to replace Dr. Hekhuis. We would suggest, among the selection of criteria you may wish to consider, an individual who is both scientifically competent in this field and sensitive to the public issues involved.

I will appreciate your favorable response to this request.

Sincerely,

Assistant Secretary

Honorable Robert S. McNamara
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D. C.

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