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SECTIONS:
Blue Water Navy

Agent Orange
Survivors of Guam

Veterans of
Southeast Asia

Veterans of
Panama Canal Zone

Veterans of Okinawa

At-Risk Veterans

January 10, 2022

Hon. Denis McDonough
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20420

Re: Request for Rulemaking Panama Canal Zone

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you know we filed a request for rulemaking with your predecessor in March of 2020. Now 22 months later we have not received a decision. We held a virtual meeting with Acting Undersecretary for Benefits Tom Murphy on October 25. Mr. Murphy confirmed that the Department was working on the rulemaking.

Previously we have filed 150+ pages of shipping documents proving that the 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D were shipped to the Panama Canal Zone. We also provided pictures, taken in 2020, showing 55 gallon drums with the orange stipe on them being used to block off access to the old Fort Sherman. Mr. Murphy confirmed that he has seen those documents.

While I understand that it takes time to review all of the evidence, I believe that we have provided you with sufficient proof to make a decision. You have broad discretionary powers under 38 U.S.C. § 501 to make rules governing veterans benefits and pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 553.

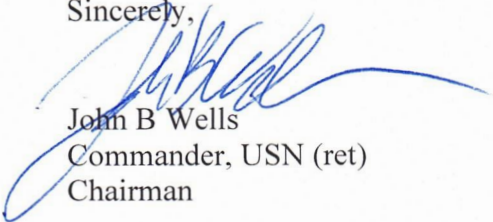
I would appreciate it if you could provide me with an estimated time of completion on our request.

You may consider this a request for information as well as a request for rulemaking. Please provide a brief statement of reasons for any denial in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 555(e).

We are available to discuss this matter with you by virtual tele-conference.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,


John B Wells
Commander, USN (ret)
Chairman