



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Office of the General Counsel  
Washington DC 20420

JAN 15 2010

In Reply Refer To: 022

Mr. John Paul Rossie  
Chief Executive Director  
Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Association  
P.O. Box 1035  
Littleton, CO 80160-1035

Dear Mr. Rossie:

The Office of General Counsel of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is considering your request, dated January 30, 2009, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs revise 38 C.F.R. § 3.313 to specify that the presumption of service connection for non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL) under that regulation include chronic lymphocytic leukemia. VA has accepted your request as a petition for rulemaking under 5 U.S.C. § 553(e) and is in the process of reviewing your request. We apologize for the delay in responding to your letter.

VA is firmly committed to ensuring the accurate, fair, and efficient adjudication of claims for compensation for disabilities due to NHL. We will keep you updated on the status of your petition.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard J. Hipolit", is written above the typed name.

Richard J. Hipolit  
Assistant General Counsel