



ARH is a not-for-profit
multi-hospital
health care system.

Kentucky

July 14, 1994

Corporate Headquarters
(Lexington)
Harlan ARH
Hazard ARH
McDowell ARH
Middlesboro ARH
Morgan County ARH
Whitesburg ARH
Williamson ARH
Division of Home Services
Homeplace Clinic
Family Health Services
June Buchanan Primary
Care Center

NIOSH Docket Office
Robert A. Taft Laboratories
Mail Stop C34
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45526

This letter is sent **in support of** the most recent NIOSH-proposed ruling on respiratory protective devices that relates to changes in the current procedures for testing and certifying air purifying respirators used for TB control. We at Appalachian Regional Healthcare, a not-for-profit healthcare system serving the rural areas of Kentucky, West Virginia, and Virginia, have been duly concerned over the rising incidence of tuberculosis, and, subsequently, utilization of the appropriate protective personal equipment to safeguard our staff **and** patients.

Virginia

Wise ARH
Clinchco Clinic

West Virginia

Beckley ARH
Man ARH
Matewan Clinic

ARH strives to comply with CDC, OSHA, and NIOSH criteria/guidelines, but it has been difficult to determine, of late, what type of respiratory protective device will meet all the regulations. Consequently, we strongly advocate new testing and certification procedures so that a broader range of more practical and economic respirators will be made available. We, in fact, believe this endeavor is urgent.

Management Services

Total Hospital
Management
Consolidated Laboratory
Electronic Diagnostics (ECG,
EEG, Holter Monitoring)
Dietary
Laundry
Management Systems
Mod-el (Dietary Software)
Pharmacy
Recruitment and Placement
Purchasing
Sterile Supply

If additional comments are needed, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Polly M. Bentley, RN, ART, Coordinator
of Quality Management

Ken Hogan, Director, Central Purchasing

JUL 25 1994