



Office of Health Care Access

A Modification of a Previously Authorized Certificate of Need

Applicant: The Stamford Hospital
and Stamford Health System, Inc.

Modification Docket Number: 08-30475-MDF

Modification Project Title: A request to modify a previous Certificate of Need authorization in order to extend the CON expiration date from October 1, 2008 to June 1, 2009.

Original Project Docket Number and Title: Docket Number 05-30475-CON; Facility Renovation Project

Statutory Reference: Sections 4-181a(b), Connecticut General Statutes

Filing Date: October 3, 2008

Decision Date: October 7, 2008

Staff: Karen Roberts

Project Description: The Stamford Hospital and Stamford Health System, Inc., requests a modification of the Certificate of Need authorization under Docket Number 05-30475-CON, in order to extend the CON expiration date from October 1, 2008 to June 1, 2009.

Findings of Fact

1. On November 23, 2005, under Docket Number 05-30475-CON, the Office of Health Care Access (“OHCA”) granted a Certificate of Need (“CON”) to Stamford Hospital and Stamford Health System, Inc., collectively termed the “Applicants” to undertake a facility renovation project, at a total capital expenditure of \$6,978,896. The CON was reviewed and authorized pursuant to Section 19a-639 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

2. Condition #1 of the CON Order under Docket Number 05-30475-CON, is as follows:

“1. This authorization shall expire on October 1, 2008. Should the facility renovation project not be completed by that date, the Applicants must seek further approval from OHCA to complete the renovation project beyond that date.”

3. Finding of Fact #10 from the CON under Docket Number 05-30475-CON is, as follows:

“10. The proposal will provide for facility enhancements in each of the following service groupings:

- Pulmonary Function Testing, Respiratory Therapy and Neurology Services;
- Plant/Facility Engineering Department; and
- Gastrointestinal Laboratory (“GI Lab”) and Patient Preparation and Recovery (“Prep & Recovery”) Areas.

4. On October 2, 2008¹, the Applicants filed a letter with OHCA, which indicates that the Applicants will be submitting a Form 2050 request for modification of this project. On October 3, the Applicants filed a Form 2050 request for modification. The Applicants are requesting that the CON expiration date in Condition #1 be extended to June 1, 2009.

5. The Applicants indicate the following as it relates to this request for modification:

- a. The facility renovation project has been largely completed.
- b. The renovations affecting pulmonary function testing, respiratory therapy and neurology services as well as the plant/facility engineering department have been finished.
- c. The portion of the project which involves relocation of the GI laboratory is complete.
- d. The renovations to the preparation and recovery areas that were also planned as part of the renovation project are still in process due to the need to coordinate these renovations with other infrastructure repairs and redesigns. This third phase of the renovation project was delayed due to a separate project involving infrastructure changes to the adjacent Radiology Department space which needed to move forward first in order to achieve a cohesive facilities plan.
 - i. The relocation of the GI Laboratory and renovations to the patient preparation and recovery areas had to wait until asbestos abatement, installation of a new HVAC system (which required a separate engineering study) and new gas lines were completed in the adjacent radiology space.
 - ii. The installation of a new 1.5 Tesla MRI unit² (approved under Docket Number 07-31059-CON) in the Radiology Department further delayed the renovations to the GI Laboratory preparation and recovery areas.

¹ The letter was received by OHCA on October 1, 2008 after business hours.

² Docket Number 07-31059-CON

6. The Applicants anticipate the completion of all renovations related to this project by June 1, 2009.

Discussion

OHCA has reviewed this request for a modification to a previously authorized CON and finds that the relationship of the CON authorized under Docket Number 05-30475-CON, to Section 19a-637, C.G.S., is not altered by this request for a modification under Docket Number 08-30475-MDF. It is the Applicants' intent to complete the project as reviewed and authorized by OHCA and the Applicants indicates that the final stage of the project should be completed by June 1, 2009. The Applicants have sufficiently explained the barriers that have occurred, which have prevented the Applicants from fully completing the project in the timeframe previously authorized. Therefore, the extension of time for project completion is acceptable to OHCA.

Order

Based on the above discussion and the reasons provided in the Applicants' modification request, OHCA hereby grants the request and modifies the CON authorized under Docket Number 05-30475-CON.

Condition #1 of the previous authorization under Docket Number 05-30475-CON is modified as follows:

1. This authorization shall expire on June 1, 2009. Should the facility renovation project not be completed by that date, the Applicants must seek further approval from OHCA to complete the renovation project beyond that date.

All other conditions set forth in the CON authorization issued under Docket Number 05-30475-CON, not modified herein, will remain in full effect.

By Order of the
Office of Health Care Access

Date

CAV/kr

Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner