



Office of Health Care Access

Modification of Previously Authorized Certificate of Need

Final Decision

Applicant: Lawrence & Memorial Hospital

Modification Docket Number: 08-30926-MDF

Modification Project Title: A request to modify a previous Certificate of Need authorization to extend the CON expiration date.

Original Project Docket Number and Title: Docket Number 07-30926-WVR; The replacement of an existing Magnetic Resonance Imaging scanner, at a total capital cost of \$2,511,372.

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

Filing Date: March 4, 2008

Decision Date: March 7, 2008

Staff: Alexis Fedorjaczenko

Project Description: Lawrence & Memorial Hospital (“Hospital”) proposes a modification of the Certificate of Need (“CON”) authorization under Docket Number 07-30926-WVR, in order to extend the CON expiration date from February 29, 2008 to February 28, 2009.

Findings of Fact

1. On February 23, 2007, under Docket Number 07-30926-WVR, the Office of Health Care Access (“OHCA”) granted a Certificate of Need (“CON”) pursuant to Section 19a-639c of the Connecticut General Statutes to Lawrence & Memorial Hospital (“Hospital”) to replace its existing Magnetic Resonance Imaging (“MRI”) scanner, at a total capital cost of \$2,511,372.
2. Condition #1 of the CON Order states the following:

“1. This authorization shall expire on February 29, 2008. Should the Hospital MRI scanner equipment replacement project not be completed by that date, the Hospital must seek further approval from OHCA to complete the project beyond that date.”
3. On February 29, 2008, OHCA received a request from the Hospital, with additional material submitted March 4, 2008, to modify the CON Final Decision under Docket Number 07-30926-WVR, in order to extend the CON expiration date from February 29, 2008 to February 28, 2009. The Hospital provides the following rationale for this request for a time extension:
 - The Hospital discovered in November 2007 that it has insufficient electrical power supply connection points for the new equipment. This was unknown at the time of waiver submission.
 - The problem was discovered after an engineering review by Walter McIlLeen Associates, Inc to determine the connection points for the new equipment. After the full impact of this review was examined, it was identified that this would be a reoccurring problem with future equipment replacements.
 - The Hospital’s current plan is to expand one of three existing distribution switchboards with a 1,600-amp section to provide the new connection points. This will also require the Hospital to expand the distribution room that this system occupies.
 - The Hospital is in the initial phase of cost estimating and identifying lead-time for this new equipment but estimates the expansion of the distribution switchboard will be completed by July 1, 2008.
4. The Hospital indicates that since the project was originally granted in 2007, the Hospital issued Purchase Order No. 0241072 on June 28, 2007, which was confirmed by Siemens Medical Solutions, for the MRI Scanner, Magnetom Avanto-System.

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 07-30926-WVR, to Section 19a-637, C.G.S., is not altered by this request for a modification under Docket Number 08-30926-MDF. It is the Hospital's intent to complete the project as reviewed and authorized by OHCA and the Hospital indicates that the remaining project implementation should be completed by February 28, 2009. The additional time needed to complete the project will not result in a change to project scope or the authorized capital expenditure.

Order

Based on the above discussion and the reasons provided in the Hospital's modification request, OHCA hereby grants the request and modifies the CON authorized under Docket Number 07-30926-WVR. Condition Number One of the previous modification authorization under Docket Number 07-30926-WVR is further modified as follows:

1. This authorization shall expire on February 28, 2009. Should the Hospital MRI scanner equipment replacement project not be completed by that date, the Hospital must seek further approval from OHCA to complete the project beyond that date.

All other conditions set forth in the CON authorization issued under Docket Number 07-30926-WVR, as subsequently modified by Docket Number 08-30926-MDF not modified herein, will remain in full effect.

By Order of the
Office of Health Care Access

Signed by Commissioner Vogel on March 7, 2008

Date

Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

CAV/agf