



Office of Health Care Access

Modification of Previously Authorized Certificate of Need

Applicant: Bridgeport Hospital

Modification Docket Number: 08-31050-MD2

Modification Project Title: A request to modify a previous Certificate of Need authorization to extend the CON expiration date from December 31, 2008 to March 31, 2009

Original Project Docket Number and Title: Docket Number 07-31050-CON;
The acquisition of a third catheterization laboratory

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

Filing Date: December 10, 2008

Decision Date: December 18, 2008

Staff: Karen Roberts

Project Description: Bridgeport Hospital proposes a modification of the Certificate of Need (“CON”) authorization issued under Docket Number 07-31050-CON, as previously modified by Docket Number 08-31050-MDF, in order to extend the CON expiration date from December 31, 2008 to March 31, 2009. The CON authorization was for the acquisition of a third cardiac catheterization laboratory and the dedication of one of the three laboratories as an electrophysiology laboratory, at an associated capital expenditure of \$2,830,101.

Findings of Fact

1. On May 30, 2008, under Docket Number 07-31050-CON, the Office of Health Care Access (“OHCA”) granted a Certificate of Need (“CON”) pursuant to Section 19a-639 of the Connecticut General Statutes, to Bridgeport Hospital (“Hospital”) to acquire a third cardiac catheterization laboratory and to dedicate one of the three laboratories as an electrophysiology laboratory, at an associated capital expenditure of \$2,830,101. Condition #1 of the CON order states the following:

“1. This authorization expires on December 31, 2008. Should the Hospital’s proposal not be completed by that date, the Hospital must seek further approval from OHCA to complete the project beyond that date.”
3. On December 1, 2008, under Docket Number 08-31050-MDF, OHCA issued a modification of the CON authorization, and increased the authorized capital expenditure by \$344,040, to \$3,174,141.
4. On December 10, 2008, OHCA received a further request to modify the CON Final Decision under Docket Number 07-31050-CON, in order to extend the CON expiration date set forth in Condition #1 from December 31, 2008 to March 31, 2009. The Hospital makes the following statements related to this request for additional time to complete the project:
 - The Hospital *“has experienced a set back due to unforeseen circumstances. During the final phase of equipment installation, one of the structural steel beams in the ceiling, which was welded together, came apart.”* The Hospital further states that *“The steel beams are a factory manufactured component and the failure is not the result of any fault on the part of the Hospital or the contactors.”*
 - As a result of the above, the catheterization laboratory equipment needs to be removed in order to facilitate the replacement of the supporting structural steel and the entire ceiling.
 - No additional costs will be incurred to replace the beams.

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 07-31050-CON, to Section 19a-637, C.G.S., is not significantly altered by this request for a modification under Docket Number 08-31050-MD2. The modification proposal does not alter the intended scope or the authorized costs for the project and the incident which occurred was entirely unanticipated by the Hospital at the time of the original CON filing. The request for additional time to complete the project appears to be reasonable.

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 07-31050-CON. Condition #1 of the CON authorization under Docket Number 07-31050-CON is modified as follows:

1. This authorization expires on March 31, 2009. Should the Hospital's proposal 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 07-31050-CON, as modified by Docket Number 08-31050-MDF, not further modified herein, will remain in full effect.

By Order of the
Office of Health Care Access

Signed by Commissioner Vogel on December 18, 2008

Date

Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

CAV/kr