



Office of Health Care Access

A Request for Modification of a Previously Authorized Certificate of Need

Applicant: Bridgeport Hospital

Modification Docket Number: 09-31050-MDF

Modification Project Title: A request to modify a previous Certificate of Need authorization in order to extend the CON expiration date to August 15, 2009

Original Project Docket Numbers 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: February 26, 2009

Decision Date: March 3, 2009

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 OHCA under Docket Numbers 08-31050-MDF and 08-31050-MD2, in order to further extend the CON expiration date from March 31, 2009 to August 15, 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.

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.
2. On December 1, 2008, under Docket Number 08-31050-MDF, OHCA issued a modification of the CON authorization in order to increase the authorized capital expenditure by \$344,040, from \$2,830,101 to \$3,174,141.
3. On December 18, 2008, under Docket Number 08-31050-MD2, OHCA issued a modification of the CON authorization in order to extend the CON expiration date. Condition #1, as modified by Docket Number 08-31050-MD2, states the following:

“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.”
4. On February 26, 2009, OHCA received a request to modify the CON Final Decision under Docket Number 07-31050-CON, in order to further extend the CON expiration date set forth in Condition #1, from March 31, 2009 to August 15, 2009. The Hospital indicates that it has experienced a set back due to unforeseen circumstances and makes the following statements related to this request for additional time to complete the project:
 - a. The Hospital indicates that it became evident that the primary and secondary structural systems designed by the structural engineering firm do not meet the standards set forth by the equipment manufacturer. The Hospital indicates that it has been working diligently with Phillips Medical Systems, the medical equipment manufacturer, with the structural engineering firm and the Hospital’s engineer in charge of the project in order to make structural repairs necessary for the installation of the equipment.
 - b. The catheterization laboratory equipment was in the final stage of installation when the project was delayed.
 - c. The work necessary to upgrade the secondary structural system to design standards has already commenced. The repair of the primary structural system will commence once the structural design is accepted.
 - d. Once the primary and secondary structural systems have been repaired, the catheterization equipment will be reinstalled and tested.

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 altered by this request for a modification under Docket Number 09-31050-MDF. The modification request does not alter the intended scope or the authorized costs for the project and the circumstances which have occurred to further delay the project appear to have been entirely unanticipated by the Hospital at the time of the original CON filing. The request for additional time to complete this project, already in progress, 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 allows a modification of the CON Order under Docket Number 07-31050-CON. Condition # 1 of the CON Order under Docket Number 07-31050-CON is further modified as follows:

1. This authorization expires on August 15, 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 previously modified by Docket Numbers 08-31050-MDF and 08-31050-MD2, not further modified herein, will remain in full effect.

By Order of the
Office of Health Care Access

Signed by Commissioner Vogel on March 3, 2009

Date

Cristine A. Vogel
Commissioner

CAV/kr