



northern
maine
medical
center

194 East Main Street
Fort Kent, Maine 04743
(207) 834-3155
www.nmmc.org

December 16, 2010

Larry Carbonneau
Certificate of Need Unit
41 Anthony Avenue
Augusta, ME 04333-0011

Dear Larry:

Northern Maine Medical Center is in dire need to replace its 1950 and 1972 heating plant. The project proposes to replace Northern Maine Medical Center's antiquated and decaying boiler plant with a biomass fire main system and a new high-efficiency diesel backup.

The current main system is dated to the early 1970s while the backup goes back to the 50s. Both have serious corrosion issues, are woefully inefficient and expensive to operate. All the associated hardware and piping is also old and corroded and constantly threatening with failure.

Northern Maine Medical Center has been working on this issue for years and has commissioned a number of engineering studies outlining various available systems and options. NMMC also has rate quotes from local bio-mass suppliers who are certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and ISO 14001.

The specifications for this bio-mass system medicate that it will operate well within EPA emission guidelines which is reflective in the growing number of public and private installations in other parts of Maine and New England.

The estimated cost for this project is \$3 million of which we have received a \$750,000 State of Maine Department of Conservation Grant towards this project. Our understanding is that the project does fall under the required Maine CON approval as the project is to replace our existing heating plant and it falls below the \$1.3 million threshold.

Thank you for your assistance and please contact me for other information you may need to make your final determination that a CON is not required.

Sincerely

Peter J. Sirois
Associate Administrator

PJS:pb