



*Department of Health
and Human Services*

*Maine People Living
Safe, Healthy and Productive Lives*

John E. Baldacci, Governor

Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner

Department of Health and Human Services
Commissioner's Office
221 State Street
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel: (207) 287-3707; Fax (207) 287-3005
TTY: 1-800-606-0215

November 4, 2008

Thomas Moakler, CEO
Houlton Regional Hospital
20 Hartford Street
Houlton, ME 04730

RE: Houlton Regional Hospital's proposal to renovate and redesign its existing Emergency Department, Nuclear Medicine, Radiology, and Cardio/Pulmonary Rehabilitation space

Dear Mr. Moakler:

I am pleased to notify you that on this date I have decided to **grant with conditions** the Certificate of Need (CON) that authorizes Houlton Regional Hospital to renovate and redesign its existing Emergency Department, Nuclear Medicine, Radiology, and Cardio/Pulmonary Rehabilitation space. The approved capital expenditure associated with this project is \$3,851,886. Any costs exceeding \$4,044,836 (the approved capital expenditure plus approved contingency of \$192,950) will trigger a subsequent review.

My approval is based on the following conditions:

- 1) Houlton Regional Hospital must submit an implementation plan to meet the requirements for a Tier One Hospital that are in effect as of the date of my decision. This plan is to be submitted prior to commencement of construction.
- 2) Houlton Regional Hospital must report for the first three full years of operation the following statistics: The hospital infection rates, slip and fall rates, ED elopement rates and ED departures against medical advice rates.
- 3) Houlton Regional Hospital must state a firm commitment to introduce green technologies when constructing the project.
- 4) Houlton Regional Hospital must include adequate negative pressure rooms in its project in order to address the comments made by Dora Mills, MD (MeCDC/DHHS).

In order for this CON to remain valid, the project must be "commenced" within one year from the date of the original approval noted above. You must complete implementation reports on your activities as specified for this type of project (CON Procedures Manual, Chapter 11, Sec. 3). Limited extensions may be available, if requested in a timely manner and for good cause, as explained in the Manual, Chapter 9, Sec. 3. Failure to commence a project within this 12-month period will result in expiration of the CON, unless an extension is obtained, as cited above.

I am granting this CON with conditions because I have determined that the project meets the criteria set forth in the CON Act Sec. 335(1) and the Department's regulations. The specific details of the project for which I have granted this CON are contained in an application found to be subject to review in accordance with the

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provisions of the Maine Certificate of Need Act, and was certified complete by the applicant on March 19, 2008. Please be aware that in accordance with Section 346 of the Maine Certificate of Need Act this Certificate, as modified herein, is valid only for the stated scope, premises and facility named in the above referenced application and is not transferable or assignable.

Furthermore, it should be clearly understood that our analysis and findings regarding the need for the proposed project as well as its financial and economic feasibility have been predicated on the application record as described in the Manual, Chapter 8, Subsection 5. Consequently, the proposal must be implemented consistent with the approval and conditions stated in this letter, as informed and clarified by the Department's analysis and findings as summarized in the following Department staff reports:

1. PRELIMINARY STAFF REPORT: Report from Steven Keaten, Health Care Financial Analyst, CONU and Larry Carbonneau, Health Care Financial Analyst, CONU to Phyllis Powell, Manager, CONU, Licensing and Regulatory Services, dated September 19, 2008.
2. FINAL REVIEW: Briefing memo to Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner, DHHS, dated November 4, 2008.

No significant changes to the project, no variations from the projected operating costs, no modifications of the terms of financing the project, and no increase in the capital expenditures to be made are permitted without the prior written approval of the Department. Any such variances may result in either the disallowance of related expenses, financial penalties or the immediate revocation of the CON.

Please work closely with my staff in the CONU to assure this project is implemented in accordance with the provisions of this Certificate and applicable rules and regulations. As part of this requirement, you are reminded that, prior to construction, the appropriate licensing and certification and State Fire Marshal officials must approve all working drawings and construction specifications.

The law requires that a holder of a CON make a written report at the end of each six-month period following its issuance. Details regarding this and related requirements will be made the subject of a separate letter from the CONU.

My staff in the CONU look forward to working with you to meet the conditions set out in this letter.

Sincerely,

Brenda M. Harvey
Commissioner

BMH/klv

cc: Catherine Cobb, Director of Licensing and Regulatory Services
Phyllis Powell, CONU Manager
Anne Flanagan, Assistant Director
Herb Downs, Audit
Janine Raquet, AAG