



York Hospital

A Not-for-Profit Community
Health Care Center Since 1904.

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SEP 30 2008

Division of Licensing and
Regulatory Services

September 30, 2008

Phyllis Powell, Director
Certificate of Need Unit
Division of Licensing and Regulatory Services
Department of Health and Human Services
State House Station 11
Augusta ME 04333-0011

Re: Letter of Intent
Cancer Care Center – Southern York County

Dear Phyllis:

York Hospital and Wentworth-Douglass Hospital submit this Letter of Intent to submit a CON Application to construct a cancer care center to improve access to radiation therapy services for residents in southern York County communities.

The Project

The new cancer care center, intended to be located in York, will offer state-of-the-art, comprehensive cancer services in a location more convenient for residents of southern and central York County.

New data from the Maine State Planning Office and the Maine Cancer Registry overwhelmingly support the need for a second radiation therapy treatment facility in York County. That result is confirmed by the Department's evidence and analysis supporting its determination of need in recently granting CONs for linear accelerators for other cancer centers.

The incidence of cancer and the number of cases appropriate for radiation therapy continues to increase, as does the population in York County. Southern York County is the fastest growing region in the State. Between 2000 – 2015, the population is projected to increase as follows:

- State of Maine 7.93%
- York County – entire 13.64%

In these 8 towns, alone, (Berwick, Eliot, Kittery, No. Berwick, Ogunquit, So. Berwick, Wells, York), the population is projected to increase **17.50 %** in this period.

Each year, 1000+ residents in southern and central York County are treated for cancer. Many of these patients require radiation therapy, which often involves frequent (often daily) treatments spanning weeks and even months. Because of the demanding treatment schedule, traveling for radiation therapy is particularly onerous. Patients from southern York County who require radiation therapy treatments must now travel out of state or to Sanford to receive radiation therapy services. A new cancer care center in York would offer high quality cancer care at a nearby, readily accessible location more convenient for a significant percent of these patients.

Given the increases in population and cancer incidence, in addition to the relocation of the MMC/SMMC cancer center from Wells to Sanford, there is a demonstrable need for a cancer care center in southern York County.

The estimated total capital cost of the project is \$6,845,974. An estimate of the incremental third-year operating costs for the project is \$1,537,000.

We look forward to scheduling a technical assistance meeting and anticipate submitting an application for review by the CON Unit in the Large Project review cycle beginning in January 2009.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and, if you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jud H. Knox
President

CC: Gregory Walker, Wentworth-Douglass Hospital