

Green Mountain Care Board
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DELIVERED ELECTRONICALLY

January 25, 2018

Mr. Paul Bengtson, CEO
Northwestern Vermont Regional Hospital
1315 Hospital Drive
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

RE: Docket No. GMCB-005-17con, Proposed Replacement of Mobile MRI with a Fixed Unit and Related Construction/Renovation. Project Cost: \$3,051,564

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your responses to our last set of questions. Once we receive your responses to the following questions, and to those sent to you on July 18, 2017, we will be able to close the application.

1. Explain in detail why utilization fluctuated annually from FY 2014 through FY 2018, as shown in your July 13, 2017 responses (Attachment 1).
2. For 2017, the projected number of MRI scans in the application (page 15) and in your July 13, 2017 responses (Attachment 1) differ (1,216 and 1,325, respectively). Identify the actual number of scans in FY 2017. In addition, if any of the actual, budgeted or projected volumes are incorrect on Attachment 1 for any fiscal year, please correct all errors and resubmit the document.
3. Identify the dollar amounts included in NVRH's 2016 and 2017 hospital budget submissions for this project. (Application, page 15)
4. In a table format show the following:
 - a. annual capacity of the MRI in each year 2014-2021;
 - b. the actual volumes in each year 2014-2017;
 - c. budget FY 2018 and projected volumes FY 2019-2021; and
 - d. percent of capacity used in each year.

Specify the assumptions used to support the annual capacity (available weeks per year, days per week, hours per day, average time per scan).

5. Provide an updated project timeline (Application, page 20)



6. Explain the Project's impact on: a) Net Patient Revenue (NPR) and (b) rates in FYs 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. Additionally, explain how the project would affect NVRH's financial outlook if the Board's NPR growth target is less than 3% in any of these years.
7. Please confirm, and explain in more detail, that sufficient emergency power will be available to serve the new MRI unit in the event of a power loss.
8. Confirm that power conditioning equipment, which is not shown in the Siemens drawings, is part of the design and included in the total project cost.

In responding, restate the question in bold font and respond in unbolded font. Send one hard copy (three-hole punched) with a Verification Under Oath to my attention at the Green Mountain Care Board, 144 State Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602, and an electronic copy to me at donna.jerry@vermont.gov.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 802-828-2918.

Sincerely,

s/ Donna Jerry

Donna Jerry

Senior Health Policy Analyst