

August 18, 2021

Ms. Donna Jerry  
Health Policy Analyst  
Green Mountain Care Board  
89 Main Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3101

Re: Request for Expedited Review for Replacement of Existing MRI

Dear Ms. Jerry:

Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC) is seeking an expedited Certificate of Need approval, without a hearing, to replace the current and only magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner, which is over 20 years old and at the end of its useful life. MRI imaging is a core evaluative and diagnostic tool used for clinical care management, and replacement of this equipment is essential to maintain basic medical services within the Rutland region. RRMC's MRI scanner is utilized seven days a week for emergent, inpatient, and outpatient testing services.

The Green Mountain Care Board has jurisdiction over the proposed project because the total project capital costs is approximately \$3,089,595. A detailed explanation of costs is provided as part of the application. Facility renovation costs are included in the project as the replacement will require renovation to the current MRI suite to accommodate the installation of a new magnet. A detailed explanation of costs is provided as part of the application.

Pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9440(c)(5)(A), and Rule 4.304, RRMC seeks to obtain expedited review because the project involves a routine replacement of existing medical equipment that involves comparable technology and capability. 18 V.S.A. §9440(c)(5)(D). As required by Rule 4.304, RRMC believes that the application is likely to be uncontested because the project is limited to replacing an existing MRI that will not substantially alter services in that the project will not have a significant impact on (1) on existing services because the change in service will be limited to improvement in image quality and patient experience; (2) the cost of health care; and (3) the RRMC's financial strength because it will be financed by working capital.

In accordance with 18 V.S.A. § 9440(c)(2) and Rule 4, we are providing the following information about the project as further described in the enclosed application:

*Project Scope and Expenditures:* The application requests a CON approving (1) purchase of a new GE Healthcare SIGNA Artist 1.5T 96 Channel 29.1 MRI scanner for a capital equipment cost of \$1,899,230.43; and (2) renovation of existing MRI space located in the existing MRI department

space at the main hospital with construction costs of \$1,190,365 for a total capital expense of approximately \$3,089,595. The detailed explanation of costs is included in the application narrative and the Appendix at pages 188-189.

*Project Rationale:* RRMC needs to replace its sole MRI scanner, which is twenty years old and is subject to frequent downtimes.

*Need to be Addressed:* As the only MRI scanner in the Rutland Hospital Service Area, the project will ensure the continued access to existing services.

*Cost, Access, Quality:* The project will maintain existing access while improving the patient experience and enhancing diagnostic image quality.

*Location:* Rutland Regional Medical Center, 160 Allen Street, Rutland, Vermont.

*Service Area:* RRMC is the only provider of MRI services in the Rutland Hospital Service Area.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Jonathan Reynolds, Vice President, Clinical Operations via e-mail at [jreyolds@rrmc.org](mailto:jreyolds@rrmc.org) or via phone (802-747-1600) should you have further questions. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

/s/ Claudio D. Fort

Claudio D. Fort

President & Chief Executive Officer

Enclosures (2)