

July 29, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Donna Jerry
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Green Mountain Care Board
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**RE: Letter of Intent, Rutland Regional Medical Center
– Replacement Linear Accelerator**

Dear Ms. Jerry:

This Letter of Intent is to notify the Green Mountain Care Board (the “Board”) of Rutland Regional Medical Center’s (“RRMC”) proposed purchase of a replacement Linear Accelerator (“LinAc”) for The Foley Cancer Center (“FCC”) at RRMC. We anticipate the application to be for an Expedited CoN. A LinAc provides radiation to oncology patients and is the device most commonly used for external beam radiation treatments for patients with cancer. A LinAc delivers high-energy x-rays or electrons to the region of the patient's tumor, with the ability to design treatments in such a way that they destroy the cancer cells while sparing the surrounding normal tissue. RRMC is seeking to replace their current machine, along with undertaking minor construction upgrades to the vault that houses the LinAc.

Objective to be achieved by implementation of the proposed project.

RRMC seeks to secure a new LinAc before the current machine is inoperable and lacking support. RRMC’s LinAc is twelve years old and is at end of life (see, **Attachment A**, Component Obsolescence). Also, as discussed below, RRMC is seeking machinery that is more advanced in treating patients with cancer.

Location of the proposed project.

Founded in 1989, the FCC has been the primary source of comprehensive oncology care for Rutland County and surrounding regions. FCC’s service area extends beyond the immediate Rutland community to include several neighboring counties in Vermont, making up a diverse and expansive catchment area that spans both rural and semi-urban communities. Importantly, FCC provides the only radiation therapy within an hour’s drive in any direction, underscoring the critical need to maintain and improve its infrastructure.

The need for the project (with supporting data).

As with all of the State, the Rutland area has experienced a significant shift in demographics over the last decade. The Vermont Department of Health reports an approximate 29% increase in Rutland County's age 65+ population from 2010-2019. Census data trends predict another 16% increase in this age group by 2027, with a concomitant increase in cancer incidence of 11%.

The patient volumes recorded by FCC reflect these demographic changes. The number of new patients receiving radiation therapy increased at least 40% from 2015 to 2022. However, the increase in patient volume is only part of the need for new equipment. The rise in the complexity of medicine has increased exponentially, alongside the rest of modern technology. The goal of radiation therapy is always to improve accuracy to decrease toxicity, while improving the chance of cure. To that end, the standard of care for many treatments is delivered through "Intensity-modulated radiation therapy", or "IMRT." IMRT requires significantly more labor from both staff and equipment to plan and deliver. Since 2011, there has been a 145% increase in the use of this technology in Rutland, pushing the limits of what the existing equipment can achieve. As the trend of advanced techniques will only continue to evolve, updating the region's only Linear Accelerator is required to maintain the standard of care.

Services to be expanded, added, replaced, or reduced.

The proposed project will replace the existing LinAc, which has been in continuous use since 2012. Effective May 1, 2025, approximately 13 years after installation of the current LinAc at FCC, the manufacturer will be putting RRMC's current model on a limited support contract, see **Attachment A**, due to component obsolescence and cybersecurity vulnerabilities. This means that if something were to break on the machine, the manufacturer cannot guarantee it can be fixed.

Anticipated impact on health care costs, access and quality.

As the proposed project is a one-to-one replacement of an existing service, there is no anticipated impact on costs beyond standard economic variations. However, by installing a state-of-the-art Linear Accelerator in the region's only comprehensive cancer center, we anticipate increased access via decreased downtime, and, most importantly, significantly improved quality of care by being able to provide state-of-the-art radiation therapy. The existing Linear Accelerator has required increased levels of servicing and repair as its mechanical components have worn through its many years of use. With the imminent loss of comprehensive service support, the risk of downtime leading to significant delays in cancer care rises unacceptably.

Detailed description of any equipment to be purchased and/or replaced.

The LinAc to be purchased is the TrueBeam, by Varian. Varian is also the manufacturer of RRMC's current machine. The Varian TrueBeam Linear Accelerator is a cutting-edge medical device used for radiation therapy in cancer treatment. It delivers highly precise and powerful radiation beams to target cancer cells while minimizing damage to surrounding healthy tissue. Its advanced technology allows for faster treatment times and improved patient comfort.

In the simplest terms, this new LinAc does the same thing as the old machine, but with updated technologies. The highlights are that the new machine will:

- a) Have more options for beam energies,
- b) Provide better radiation therapy in terms of quality and options, and
- c) Is more accurate/precise and can treat better both smaller targets and off-axis targets.

Estimated beginning and completion dates.

Varian has projected a 12-month build time, once they have a purchase order in hand from RRM. We are hoping to be able to provide Varian with a purchase order in September 2024, which would allow us to have an install completed in October 2025. The goal is to lessen the amount of time we are on “limited support” with respect to our current LinAc.

Total project cost that includes:

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$3,178,856. Total project costs include all components to make it fully operational. Such components include the Linear Accelerator, hardware, software, construction/renovations, architectural/engineering services, owner furnishings, data/telecom cabling, permits/miscellaneous expenses, and owner contingency.

How the project will be financed.

The proposed project will be financed through operations and community fundraising. The project will not result in increased costs for LinAc services and treatments to our patients.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Jonathan Reynolds, Vice President Clinical Operations. His contact information is listed below:

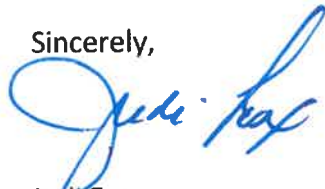
Mailing address: Rutland Regional Medical Center, 160 Allen St., Rutland, VT 05701

Cell Phone Number: 802-345-8678

E-mail address: jreynolds@rrmc.org

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Judi Fox

Chief Executive Officer and President
Rutland Regional Medical Center