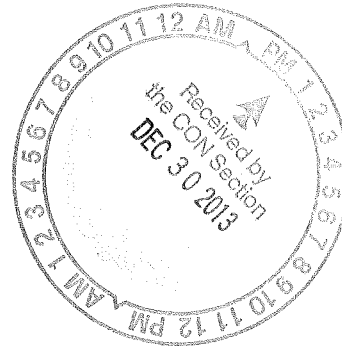




MARIA PARHAM
MEDICAL CENTER

A Duke LifePoint Hospital

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December 23, 2013

Mr. Craig Smith, Chief
CON Section
North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation
809 Ruggles Dr
Raleigh NC 27603

Dear Mr. Smith:

Maria Parham Medical Center could be negatively impacted by Franklin Regional Medical Center's (Novant's) plan as proposed in their CON application to move an Operating Room from its location in Louisburg to a new facility in Youngsville. The four county areas of Vance, Granville, Warren, and Franklin have a sufficient number of surgery centers currently as determined by the percentage of utilization of those facilities within hospitals. Adding another facility will unnecessarily cause a dilution of surgical cases in those existing surgical suites and will also create unnecessary demand for anesthesia and surgical personnel in the region . The latter could result in vacancies and added expense in recruiting positions.

We have always appreciated the State's efforts to determine the appropriate number of medical facilities that are needed to serve the citizens across our state. In this particular case, we question the wisdom of Novant's plan to geographically disperse existing resources and in the process create less efficient use of them. In this day of healthcare reform where every effort should be to create economies of scale which can drive down costs while increasing quality of care, we fail to see how this plan is in concert with that overarching goal.

Sincerely,

Bob Singletary, CEO

Cc: Jim Johnson, Chairperson
Jim Chatman, CFO
Cindy Faulkner, CNO