



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEVDUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

MARK PAYNE • Director, Division of Health Service Regulation

RESPONSE REQUIRED

March 26, 2026

Jason Beck
500 Jefferson Street
Whiteville, NC 28472

Conditional Approval

Project ID #: O-12703-25
Facility: Columbus Regional East
Project Description: Develop a new 30-bed hospital by relocating no more than 30 acute care beds and one operating room from Columbus Regional Healthcare System
County: Columbus
FID #: 250954

Approved Capital Expenditure: \$214,767,336
Conditions of Approval: See Attachment A
Approved Timetable: See Attachment B
Last Date to Appeal: April 27, 2026
Required State Agency Findings: Enclosed

Dear Mr. Beck:

The Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section, Division of Health Service Regulation (Agency) has conditionally approved the above referenced certificate of need application. The conditional approval is valid only for the approved capital expenditure shown above. If the capital cost will exceed the approved capital expenditure amount by more than 115%, the applicant must first obtain a new certificate of need.

Response to the conditions in Attachment A should be attached to an email addressed to the Project Analyst and the Co-signer no later than 35 days from the date of the decision. The certificate of need will not be issued if the response to the conditions in Attachment A has not been received by the Agency.

The timetable for completion of the project is the timetable outlined in the certificate of need application, unless an adjustment has been made by the Agency because the review period was extended. The approved timetable for this project is found in Attachment B.

The applicant shall not begin developing this project until after the certificate of need has been issued and the certificate of need will not be issued until the applicant has documented that all conditions that must be met prior to issuance of the certificate of need have been met.

The Certificate of Need law provides that any affected person has thirty (30) days after the date of the decision to file a petition for a contested case on this approval. Further, if you are aggrieved by any of the conditions you may file a petition for a contested case hearing in accordance with G.S.150B, Article 3. This petition must be filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings, 6714 Mail Service

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE REGULATION

LOCATION: 1915 Health Services Way, Raleigh, NC 27607
MAILING ADDRESS: 1915 Health Services Way, 2704 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2704
www.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr • TEL: 919-855-3873

Jason Beck
March 26, 2026
Page 2

Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6714 within thirty (30) days of the date of this decision. Effective October 1, 2009, OAH requires a filing fee with submittal of petitions for contested cases. Please direct all questions regarding this fee to the OAH Clerk's Office (919-431-3000).

G.S. 150B-23 provides that a party filing a petition must also serve a copy of the petition on all parties to the petition. Therefore, if you file a petition for a contested case hearing, you must serve a copy of the petition on the Department of Health and Human Services by mailing a copy of your petition to:

Julie Cronin
Department of Health and Human Services,
Office of Legal Affairs,
2001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina, 27699-2001

It is requested that a copy of the petition also be served on the Agency.

The certificate of need will not be issued before the completion of thirty-day appeal period which ends on the date shown above. If a contested case petition is filed with OAH within the thirty-day appeal period, the certificate will not be issued until the appeal is resolved.

If the decision is appealed, the timetable set forth in this letter will be adjusted accordingly before the certificate of need is issued. Please contact this office if any clarification of this decision is required.

Please refer to the Project ID # and Facility ID # (FID) in all correspondence.

Sincerely,



Gregory F. Yakaboski
Project Analyst
Greg.yakaboski@dhhs.nc.gov



Lisa Pittman
Assistant Chief
Lisa.pittman@dhhs.nc.gov

Enclosures:

Attachment A: Conditions of Approval
Attachment B: Approved Timetable
Required State Agency Findings

cc: Acute & Home Care Licensure & Certification Section, DHSR
Construction Section, DHSR
Radiation Protection Section

Attachment A
Conditions of Approval

1. Columbus Regional Healthcare System (hereinafter certificate holder) shall materially comply with all representations made in the certificate of need application.
2. The certificate holder shall develop a new 30-bed hospital by relocating no more than 30 acute care beds and one operating room from Columbus Regional Healthcare System.
3. Upon completion of the project, Columbus Regional East shall be licensed for no more than 30 acute care beds and one operating room.
4. Progress Reports:
 - a. Pursuant to G.S. 131E-189(a), the certificate holder shall submit periodic reports on the progress being made to develop the project consistent with the timetable and representations made in the application on the Progress Report form provided by the Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section. The form is available online at:
<https://info.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/coneed/progressreport.html>.
 - b. The certificate holder shall complete all sections of the Progress Report form.
 - c. The certificate holder shall describe in detail all steps taken to develop the project since the last progress report and should include documentation to substantiate each step taken as available.
 - d. The first progress report shall be due on September 1, 2026.
5. The certificate holder shall not acquire as part of this project any equipment that is not included in the project's proposed capital expenditures in Section Q of the application and that would otherwise require a certificate of need.
6. The certificate holder shall develop and implement an Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Plan for the project that conforms to or exceeds energy efficiency and water conservation standards incorporated in the latest editions of the North Carolina State Building Codes.
7. The certificate holder shall execute or commit to a contract for design services for the project no later than four years following the issuance of this certificate of need.
8. The certificate holder shall acknowledge acceptance of and agree to comply with all conditions stated herein to the Agency in writing prior to issuance of the certificate of need.

**Attachment B
Approved Timetable**

	Milestone	Date <i>mm/dd/yyyy</i>
1	Financing Obtained	04/01/2027
2	Drawings Completed	04/06/2027
3	Land Acquired	04/06/2027
4	Construction / Renovation Contract(s) Executed	06/06/2027
5	25% of Construction / Renovation Completed (25% of the cost is in place)	03/30/2028
6	50% of Construction / Renovation Completed	09/30/2028
7	75% of Construction / Renovation Completed	02/28/2029
8	Construction / Renovation Completed	05/30/2029
9	Equipment Ordered	03/15/2029
10	Equipment Installed	06/15/2029
11	Equipment Operational	08/15/2029
12	Building / Space Occupied	09/01/2029
13	Licensure Obtained	09/15/2029
14	Services Offered	10/01/2029
15	Medicare and / or Medicaid Certification Obtained	10/01/2029
16	Facility or Service Accredited	10/01/2029