



## Office of Health Care Access Certificate of Need Application

### Final Decision

**Applicant:** St. Vincent's Medical Center

**Docket Number:** 04-30291-WVR

**Project Title:** Request to Waive CON Requirements for the Replacement of Interventional Suite Radiology Equipment

**Statutory Reference:** Section 19a-639c of the Connecticut General Statutes

**Filing Date:** May 24, 2004

**Decision Date:** May 27, 2004

**Staff Assigned:** Harold M. Oberg

**Project Description:** St. Vincent's Medical Center ("Hospital") requests a waiver of Certificate of Need ("CON") requirements for replacement equipment in order to replace its existing interventional suite radiology equipment, at a total capital expenditure of \$1,537,973. The radiology equipment to be replaced in the Hospital's interventional suite is aging and should be upgraded for new technological advancements.

**Nature of Proceedings:** On May 24, 2004, the Office of Health Care Access ("OHCA") received the completed waiver of CON requirements request for replacement equipment from St. Vincent's Medical Center to replace its existing interventional suite radiology equipment, at a total capital expenditure of \$1,537,973. The Hospital is a health care facility or institution as defined in Section 19a-630 of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S.").

OHCA's authority to review and approve, modify or deny the requested waiver of CON requirements for replacement equipment is established by Section 19a-639c, C.G.S. The provisions of this section as well as the principles and guidelines set forth in Section 19a-637, C.G.S., were fully considered by OHCA in its review.

## Findings of Fact

1. On September 22, 1994, St. Vincent's Medical Center ("Hospital") received Certificate of Need ("CON") authorization from the Commission on Hospitals and Health Care ("CHHC") under Docket Number 94-527 for the replacement of its special procedures room radiographic equipment, at a total capital expenditure of \$1,015,300. *(September 22, 1994 CHHC Agreed Settlement, St. Vincent's Medical Center, Docket Number 94-527)*
2. The Hospital is requesting a waiver of CON requirements for replacement equipment pursuant to Section 19a-639c of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S.") to replace its existing interventional suite radiology equipment, at a total capital expenditure of \$1,537,973, which was acquired under the CON authorization granted by CHHC under Docket Number 94-527. *(May 7, 2004 Letter of Intent/ Waiver Form 2030, Page 5 of 7 and May 24, 2004 Supplemental CON Waiver Request Filing, Revised Page 3 of 7)*
3. The Hospital plans to install an Axiom Artis TA system with FD upgrade from Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc. as its replacement radiology equipment. *(May 24, 2004 Supplemental CON Waiver Request Filing, Vender Quote)*
4. The Hospital anticipates that the benefits of the upgrade of the interventional suite radiology equipment will include better image quality, a lower radiation dose to patients, digital imaging integrated with other digital modalities, increased table weight capacity to 450 pounds, and images that will be digitized, which will facilitate easy readability of these images throughout the Hospital. *(May 24, 2004 Supplemental CON Waiver Request Filing, Revised Project Description)*
5. The total capital expenditure for the replacement interventional suite radiology equipment proposal is \$1,537,973, which includes \$1,387,973 for the purchase of the replacement radiology equipment and \$150,000 for building renovations. *(May 24, 2004 Supplemental CON Waiver Request Filing, Revised Page 3 of 7)*
6. The Hospital will fund the total capital expenditure of \$1,537,973 for the replacement equipment proposal entirely through an equity contribution consisting of the Hospital's operating funds and funded depreciation. *(May 24, 2004 Supplemental CON Waiver Request Filing, Revised Page 4 of 7)*
7. The total capital expenditure of \$1,537,973 for the replacement equipment proposal is below the \$2,000,000 threshold for determining eligibility for a waiver of CON requirements for replacement equipment pursuant to Section 19a-639c, C.G.S. *(May 7, 2004 Letter of Intent/Waiver Form 2030, Page 5 of 7)*
8. The total capital expenditure of \$1,537,973 for the replacement equipment proposal is less than the original cost of the equipment to be replaced, plus an increase of ten percent for each twelve-month period that has elapsed since CHHC's previous CON authorization date of September 22, 1994 under Docket Number 94-527. *(May 7, 2004 Letter of Intent/Waiver Form 2030, Page 5 of 7)*

9. The Hospital anticipates commencing the replacement equipment project on July 1, 2004. (*May 24, 2004 Supplemental CON Waiver Request Filing, Revised Page 2 of 7*)

## Rationale

St. Vincent's Medical Center ("Hospital") is requesting a waiver of Certificate of Need ("CON") requirements for replacement equipment pursuant to Section 19a-639c of the Connecticut General Statutes ("C.G.S.") to replace its existing interventional suite radiology equipment, at a total capital expenditure of \$1,537,973. On September 22, 1994, the Hospital received CON authorization from the Commission on Hospitals and Health Care ("CHHC") under Docket Number 94-527 for the replacement of its special procedures room radiographic equipment, at a total capital expenditure of \$1,015,300.

The Hospital plans to install an Axiom Artis TA system with FD upgrade from Siemens Medical Solutions, Inc. as its replacement radiology equipment. The Hospital anticipates that the benefits of the upgrade of the interventional suite radiology equipment will include better image quality, a lower radiation dose to patients, digital imaging integrated with other digital modalities, increased table weight capacity to 450 pounds, and images that will be digitized, which will facilitate easy readability of these images throughout the Hospital.

The total capital expenditure for the replacement interventional suite radiology equipment proposal is \$1,537,973, which includes \$1,387,973 for the purchase of the replacement radiology equipment and \$150,000 for building renovations. The Hospital will fund the total capital expenditure of \$1,537,973 for the replacement equipment proposal entirely through an equity contribution consisting of the Hospital's operating funds and funded depreciation.

The total capital expenditure of \$1,537,973 for the replacement equipment proposal is below the \$2,000,000 threshold for determining eligibility for a waiver of CON requirements for replacement equipment pursuant to Section 19a-639c, C.G.S. Furthermore, the total capital expenditure of \$1,537,973 for the replacement equipment proposal is less than the original cost of the equipment to be replaced, plus an increase of ten percent for each twelve-month period that has elapsed since CHHC's previous CON authorization date of September 22, 1994 under Docket Number 94-527.

Based on the foregoing Findings and Rationale, OHCA has determined that St. Vincent's Medical Center's request for a waiver of CON requirements for replacement equipment to replace its existing interventional suite radiology equipment, at a total capital expenditure of \$1,537,973, meets the requirements for waiver of the CON process pursuant to Section 19a-639c, C.G.S., and is hereby GRANTED.

## Order

St. Vincent's Medical Center ("Hospital") is hereby authorized to replace its existing interventional suite radiology equipment, at a total capital expenditure of \$1,537,973, subject to the following conditions:

1. This authorization shall expire on May 31, 2005. Should the Hospital's interventional suite radiology equipment replacement project not be completed by that date, the Hospital must seek further approval from OHCA to complete the project beyond that date.
2. The Hospital shall not exceed the approved total capital expenditure of \$1,537,973. In the event that the Hospital learns of potential cost increases or expects that final project costs will exceed those approved, the Hospital shall file with OHCA a request for approval of the revised CON project budget.
3. This authorization requires the removal of the Hospital's existing interventional suite radiology equipment for certain disposition, such as sale or salvage, outside of and unrelated to the Hospital's service provider locations. Furthermore, the Hospital will provide evidence to OHCA of the final disposition of the Hospital's existing interventional suite radiology equipment, by no later than three months after the replacement interventional suite radiology equipment has become operational.

All of the foregoing constitutes the final order of the Office of Health Care Access in this matter.

By Order of the  
Office of Health Care Access

May 27, 2004

Signed by Cristine A. Vogel  
Commissioner

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