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Hand-delivered

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Office of General Counsel
Department of Community Health
2 Peachtree Street, NW
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RE: Senate Bill 433 Exemptions from CON Review

Dear Clyde:

Of behalf of Meadows Regional Medical Center (MRMC) I am requesting clarification on Senate Bill 433 regarding the exemption for the relocation of a health care facility [Code Section 31-6-47(a)(24)], which reads:

The relocation of any skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility within the same county, any other health care facility in a rural county within the same county, and any other health care facility in an urban county within a three-mile radius of the existing facility so long as the facility does not propose to offer any new or expanded clinical health services at the new location;

MRMC is an 87-bed acute care hospital located in Toombs County, a rural county in southeast Georgia. In addition to its 87 acute care beds, MRMC is also licensed for 35 nursing home beds, which are located in the hospital. The original hospital was constructed in 1963 and over the years has undergone four major renovation and expansion projects, the latest being in 2000. Because of its age and the piecemeal expansions over the past 45 years, the hospital facility suffers from a number of deficiencies that impact the operations and the delivery of care.

To address the multitude of facility-related problems, MRMC is proposing to relocate to a 61-bed replacement hospital (a decrease of 26 beds) on 72 acres that are located in Toombs County, approximately one mile from the current hospital campus. The 35-bed nursing home will continue to operate in the existing facility. The proposed project does not include the purchase of any new major medical equipment or the addition of any new institutional services not already being offered at the current location. However, the following areas of

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the replacement facility will be expanded from existing levels to meet current and projected demand:

- The addition of two operating rooms in the surgical suite, resulting in a total of six operating rooms.
- The addition of seven emergency department examination beds, resulting in a total of 20 examination beds.
- The addition of nine Same-Day-Surgery (SDS) (staging) beds resulting in a total of 17 SDS beds.

Given the scope of the proposed project that MRMC is considering, would the project be subject to CON review or would it qualify for an exemption under Senate Bill 433?

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Beall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel M. Beall

Copy: Alan Kent, Meadows Regional Medical Center