

NEWS RELEASE



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St. Helens proposed hospital amended application under review

The Oregon Public Health Division has begun a review of an amended application for a new hospital in St. Helens, which was submitted by the Columbia Health District. A proposed decision on whether or not to issue a certificate of need to approve the hospital will be issued no later than Aug. 25, 2010.

The decision is called a “proposed” decision because an affected party or the applicant may request a hearing if that party is dissatisfied with the decision.

The application is for a 12-bed hospital to be located at 35311 Millard Road in St. Helens, near the intersection of Millard Road and U.S. Highway 30. Columbia Health District was issued a proposed order on Oct. 22, 2009, denying its application to build the proposed hospital because the applicant failed to justify the need for and viability of the hospital. The applicant then amended its application and the health officials withdrew the proposed order.

A public meeting on the application will be announced within the next few weeks.

Anyone who has a vested interest in the outcome of the decision may request to have an affected party status. Anyone designated as an affected person under the legal guidelines will receive copies of relevant correspondence, may testify at or request a public meeting on the issue prior to a decision if the request is made at a reasonable time, and may be a party to any future contested case hearing.

State law charges Oregon Public Health officials with reviewing proposals for new hospitals and nursing facilities to ensure health care consumers don't pay for facilities not justified by community needs.

Oregon Public Health will make a copy of the application available for inspection during normal business hours at 800 NE Oregon St., Suite 930, Portland. For more information, or for information about becoming an affected person, please contact Jana Fussell at 971-673-1108.

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