

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**LCB File No. R150-15**

January 19, 2016

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §§1-5, NRS 439A.081.

A REGULATION relating to health care facilities; defining the term “letter of approval” for the purposes of those health care facility construction projects requiring approval from the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services; revising provisions requiring the provision to the Department of a quarterly progress report on certain health care facility construction projects; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

Existing law requires that, in a county whose population is less than 100,000, no person may undertake certain proposed expenditures for new construction by or on behalf of a health facility in excess of \$2,000,000 or such an amount as the Department of Health and Human Services may specify by regulation without first applying for and obtaining the written approval of the Director of the Department. In Senate Bill No. 247, the Nevada Legislature expanded this requirement to apply also in an incorporated city or unincorporated town whose population is less than 25,000 if that city or town is located in a county whose population is 100,000 or more. (NRS 439A.100, as amended by section 2 of Senate Bill No. 247, chapter 422, Statutes of Nevada 2015, at page 2436) Existing regulations provide certain requirements for submitting an application for such a letter of approval. (NAC 439A.365) **Section 1** of this regulation provides a definition for the term “letter of approval,” including an acknowledgment that such a letter is commonly known as a “certificate of need.” **Section 3** of this regulation removes the requirement that the check for the fee required with the application for a letter of approval be a cashier’s check.

Existing regulations provide requirements for submitting to the Department, prior to applying for a letter of approval, a letter of intent to determine if a letter of approval is required for a certain project. (NAC 439A.305) Existing regulations also require the holder of a letter of approval from the Director to provide the Department with quarterly progress reports on the project that is the subject of the letter of approval. (NAC 439A.465) Finally, existing regulations provide that a letter of approval is subject to withdrawal if the approved timetable of the project is not met by the holder, unless an extension is granted by the Department upon request of the holder. (NAC 439A.475) **Section 4** of this regulation removes the requirement that the provision

of information to the Department in a quarterly progress report not be construed or interpreted as a request for an extension or a letter of intent, and **section 5** of this regulation requires that a request for an extension be submitted to the Department in a quarterly progress report.

**Section 1.** Chapter 439A of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

*“Letter of approval” means a document, commonly known as a certificate of need, which is issued by the Director pursuant to NAC 439A.455 and which indicates the approval of a proposed project for which approval is required pursuant to NRS 439A.100, as amended by section 2 of Senate Bill No. 247, chapter 422, Statutes of Nevada 2015, at page 2436.*

**Sec. 2.** NAC 439A.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

439A.010 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NAC 439A.070 to 439A.240, inclusive, *and section 1 of this regulation* have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

**Sec. 3.** NAC 439A.365 is hereby amended to read as follows:

439A.365 1. The original and three copies of an application for a letter of approval must be submitted by mail or delivered by hand to the Department.

2. Each application submitted to the Department must be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of \$9,500. The fee must be paid by ~~feashier's~~ check made payable to the order of the Department of Health and Human Services.

3. The Department will acknowledge receipt of an application and accompanying fee:

(a) For applications delivered by hand, by a receipt issued to the deliverer at the time of delivery; or

(b) For applications received through the mail, by mail within 5 working days after the date of receipt.

➡ Receipt will be acknowledged on a form of receipt prescribed by the Department.

**Sec. 4.** NAC 439A.465 is hereby amended to read as follows:

439A.465 1. The holder of a letter of approval shall provide the Department with quarterly progress reports, beginning with the first calendar quarter following the issuance of the letter of approval and due no later than 30 days after the end of the quarter. Each progress report must include all of the following:

- (a) The date of commencement of the project;
- (b) The extent of progress made in complying with the approved timetable, including:
  - (1) All deadlines which have passed; and
  - (2) Whether the required activity met the deadline;
- (c) Any financial arrangements which differ from those originally approved, including a detailed description of, and the reason for, each difference;
- (d) The actual cost to date for the project;
- (e) A revised estimate of the total project cost, including a detailed description and explanation of the differences, if any, between the revised cost and that originally approved;
- (f) All the steps taken to ensure compliance with each applicable condition;
- (g) The material changes in the project, including a detailed description and explanation of each change; and
- (h) The projected date of completion of the project.

2. The Department may, from time to time, request in writing such additional information as is necessary to determine whether the holder of a letter of approval is complying with the letter of approval.

3. The holder of a letter of approval will have 20 working days from his or her receipt of a request for information from the Department to submit the required information in writing. Failure to respond within this period may constitute grounds for the Department to initiate withdrawal proceedings pursuant to NAC 439A.505.

4. The holder of a letter of approval must provide access to the project site and all project records to the Department's staff for examination and inspection in order to verify compliance with the letter of approval and any information submitted by the holder of the letter of approval.

~~{5. The provision of information through progress reports required by the Department will not be construed or interpreted as an application for extension pursuant to NAC 439A.475 or the notification required pursuant to NAC 439A.305.}~~

**Sec. 5.** NAC 439A.475 is hereby amended to read as follows:

439A.475 1. A letter of approval is subject to withdrawal pursuant to NAC 439A.505 if the approved timetable is not met by the holder of the letter of approval, unless an extension is granted by the Department pursuant to this section.

2. An extension will be granted only if the applicant manifests an intention to complete the project and demonstrates that good and sufficient reasons exist for its failure to meet the timetable. Good and sufficient reasons include delays caused by:

- (a) Litigation;
- (b) The actions of a regulatory agency other than the Department; or
- (c) An event determined by the Department to be beyond the control of the holder of the letter of approval.

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, a request for an extension must be submitted to the Department *as part of the quarterly progress report required by NAC*

**439A.465** at least 90 days before the required date of completion of the project. The request must contain information setting forth the reasons for noncompliance with the timetable and the extent of the progress toward completion of the project.

4. A request for an extension of a letter of approval which is submitted less than 90 days before the required date of completion of the project will not be accepted unless the applicant can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department that unforeseen occurrences prevented a timely submission.

5. Within 20 working days after receipt of the request, the Director will determine whether or not to grant an extension.

6. If the decision is to grant an extension, the Director will issue a letter of extension to the holder of the letter of approval, which will contain:

- (a) The reasons for granting the extension; and
- (b) A revised timetable for the project, including a revised date of completion for the project.

7. If an extension is not granted, proceedings to withdraw the letter of approval may be initiated pursuant to NAC 439A.505.