



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LEE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER CERTIFICATE OF NEED UPDATE:
EXTENSION REQUEST WILL BE RE-FILED CLOSER TO MAY DEADLINE**

*Extension Request to be Temporarily
Withdrawn and Re-Filed Nearer to May 2019 Deadline*

LEESBURG, Ga. (Feb. 15, 2019) – Lee County leaders announced today the temporary withdrawal of the Certificate of Need (CON) extension request for Lee County Medical Center (LCMC) that was filed on Feb 1. LCMC leaders will re-file the extension request, if necessary, closer to the May 2019 deadline.

“The Georgia Department of Community Health asked us to re-file the extension request closer to the May deadline to allow for any change in circumstances. This will allow LCMC to show the additional progress that will be made before the deadline,” said Eddie Alexander, President and CEO of LCMC OPCO, LLC, the company that will operate and manage Lee County Medical Center. “The process is proceeding, and our team will be able to provide the Department updated information in our next filing about the work we will accomplish this spring before the May deadline.”

Since the Department’s CON approval, the County has worked with Alexander and a team of local physicians, architects and developers to take care of all of the elements needed to build and open the new hospital. The extension request was filed as a result of unanticipated weather delays, infrastructure projects and the business of building a new hospital.

“We look forward to expanding local healthcare access and achieving our vision for Lee County,” said Billy Mathis, Lee County Commission Chairman. “We appreciate the strong support we continue to receive and will keep our community updated as we move through this process.”

The County expects to re-submit the request to the Department in May as they work toward a groundbreaking later this year.

About Lee County

Lee County, one of Georgia's original 32 counties, is nestled in the heart of Southwest Georgia. A rapidly growing community, we offer a full range of services and amenities while maintaining a hometown atmosphere.

Lee County is a unique blend of residential, commercial and industrial development with a traditional rural flair. Interspersed with creeks, lakes, plantations, and historical sites, the community offers excellent recreational opportunities that take full advantage of the moderate climate and beautiful landscape.

Our warm, friendly population includes many young families attracted by Lee County's award-winning school system. Located within the Albany metro area, Lee County experienced a 12.51% increase in population between 2000 and 2010 and ranks 61st in population out of 159 Georgia counties.

Lee County is dedicated to encouraging a healthy mix of residential, commercial and industrial development while preserving the county's rural setting and heritage. Our community's commitment to quality, well-planned growth ensures Lee County will thrive for years to come.

For more information, please visit www.lee.ga.us.

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