



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CERTIFICATE OF NEED EXTENSION  
RE-FILED FOR LEE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER**

*Leaders request 12-month extension to continue hospital's strong progress*

**LEESBURG, Ga. (May 14, 2019)** – The Lee County Commissioners announced today that a request to extend Lee County Medical Center's Certificate of Need (CON) has been re-submitted to the Georgia Department of Community Health (Department). Originally filed in February, the Department asked that the application be re-submitted closer to the CON's May 2019 deadline to demonstrate a change in the new hospital's circumstances.

"Following the CON's approval, we experienced unanticipated delays, including severe weather, site infrastructure projects and simply the business of building a new hospital," said Eddie Alexander, President and CEO of LCMC OPCO, LLC, the company that will operate and manage Lee County Medical Center. "While all of these factors have been resolved, these issues still impacted our timeline."

Lee County leaders are asking for an additional 12 months to construct the new 60-bed hospital. The hospital, which will be located on Grand Island Drive, will be a full-service healthcare provider, offering both acute and emergency care services for all patients, regardless of ability to pay.

"Despite these delays, we continue to be pleased with the positive progress that we have been able to make, including a number of steps towards developing the land and engineering for the hospital site," said Alexander. "Specifically, the design of an east/west connector road has been finalized, and the County has obtained all of the necessary easements to begin construction of the connector road and utility lines leading to the hospital."

"As we continue this important work, we appreciate the Department's review in our efforts to provide access to local, high-quality care in Lee County," said Billy Mathis, Lee County Commission Chairman. "Our community has been integral to this process, and we will continue to provide updates over the coming months."

Upon approval of the extension request, the County expects to break ground on the hospital later this year. For additional ongoing updates, please visit [www.ABetterLeeCounty.com](http://www.ABetterLeeCounty.com).

### **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](http://www.lee.ga.us).

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