

WAC 246-310-490 Written findings and actions on certificate of need applications. (1) Written findings.

(a) The findings of the department's review of a certificate of need application shall be stated in writing and include the basis for the decision of the secretary's designee as to whether a certificate of need is to be issued or denied for the proposed project.

(b) In making its findings and taking action on a certificate of need application, the department shall use all criteria contained in chapter 246-310 WAC applicable to the proposed project.

(i) The written findings shall identify any criterion the department has decided is not applicable to the particular project and give the reason for such decision.

(ii) The secretary's designee may deny a certificate of need if the applicant has not provided the information which is necessary to a determination that the project meets all applicable criteria and which the department has prescribed and published as necessary to a certificate of need review of the type proposed: Provided however, That the department has requested such information in a screening letter sent in accordance with WAC 246-310-090 (1)(c).

(c) The department shall make written findings on the extent to which the project meets the criteria set forth in WAC 246-310-210 (1) and (2) when the secretary's designee issues a certificate of need directly related to the provision of health services, or beds: Provided however, That no such written finding shall be necessary for projects for the correction of deficiencies of the types described in WAC 246-310-480 and for projects proposed by or on behalf of a health maintenance organization or a health care facility controlled, directly or indirectly, by a health maintenance organization.

(d) When, as a part of concurrent review proceedings, the secretary's designee makes a decision to approve an application or applications and to disapprove other competing applications, he or she shall provide a specific written statement of reasons for determining the approved application or applications to be superior.

(2) Separability of application and action.

When a certificate of need application is for multiple services or multiple components or the proposed project is to be multiphased, the secretary's designee may take individual and different action on separable portions of the proposed project.

(3) Conditional certificate of need.

(a) The secretary's designee in making his or her decision on a certificate of need application may decide to issue a conditional certificate of need if the department finds the project is justified only under specific circumstances: Provided however, That conditions shall relate directly to the project being reviewed and to review criteria.

(b) When the department finds a project for which a certificate of need is to be issued does not satisfy the review criteria set forth in WAC 246-310-210 (1) and (2), the secretary's designee may impose a condition or conditions that the applicant take affirmative steps so as to satisfy those review criteria. In evaluating the accessibility of the project, the current accessibility of the facility as a whole shall be taken into consideration.

(c) The conditions attached to a certificate of need may be released by the secretary's designee upon the request of the health care facility or health maintenance organization for which the certificate of need was issued.

(i) The request must include information needed by the department demonstrating the conditions are no longer valid and the release of

such conditions would be consistent with the purpose of chapter 70.38 RCW.

(ii) A request for the removal of a condition must be submitted in accordance with WAC 246-310-090 and will be reviewed in accordance with the regular or expedited review procedures described in WAC 246-310-160 or 246-310-150.

(4) Distribution of written findings and statement of decision.

(a) A copy of the department's written findings and statement of the decision of the secretary's designee on a certificate of need application shall be sent to:

(i) The person submitting the certificate of need application;

(ii) In the case of a project proposed by a health maintenance organization, the appropriate regional office of the United States Department of Health and Human Services; and

(iii) When the secretary's designee issues a certificate of need for a project which does not satisfy the review criteria set forth in WAC 246-310-210 (1) and (2), the appropriate regional office of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(b) The written findings and statement of the decision of the secretary's designee on a certificate of need application shall be available to others requesting the certificate of need unit to provide access to a copy of such findings and statement.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.38 RCW. WSR 96-24-052, § 246-310-490, filed 11/27/96, effective 12/28/96. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.38.135 and 70.38.919. WSR 92-02-018 (Order 224), § 246-310-490, filed 12/23/91, effective 1/23/92. Statutory Authority: RCW 43.70.040. WSR 91-02-049 (Order 121), recodified as § 246-310-490, filed 12/27/90, effective 1/31/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 70.38.135. WSR 86-06-030 (Order 2344), § 248-19-420, filed 2/28/86; WSR 81-09-012 (Order 210), § 248-19-420, filed 4/9/81, effective 5/20/81. Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.38 RCW. WSR 79-12-079 (Order 188), § 248-19-420, filed 11/30/79.]