

# NEWS & MESSENGER

SERVING PRINCE WILLIAM, MANASSAS & MANASSAS PARK

# State: No need for a new hospital

## HAYMARKET » Prince William Health System still pursuing hospital on western side of county

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A report recently issued by a division of the Virginia Department of Health says a new hospital is not needed in the Haymarket area.

But a final decision has not yet been made.

The report from the Virginia Department of Health's Division of Certificates of Public Need recommended denying two applications from Prince William Health System and Sentara Healthcare to build a new 60-bed hospital in western Prince William County, Sentara, which operates Potomac Hospital in Woodbridge, has since withdrawn its application.

Prince William Health System, which operates Prince William Hospital in Manassas, is still seeking approval for its plan, which

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would put a new 60-bed hospital next to the Heathcote Medical Center.

The Virginia Department of Health is holding an informal fact-finding conference on the application at the State Corporation Commission Building in Richmond on Thursday.

The state health commissioner will make a final decision on whether the hospital may be built.

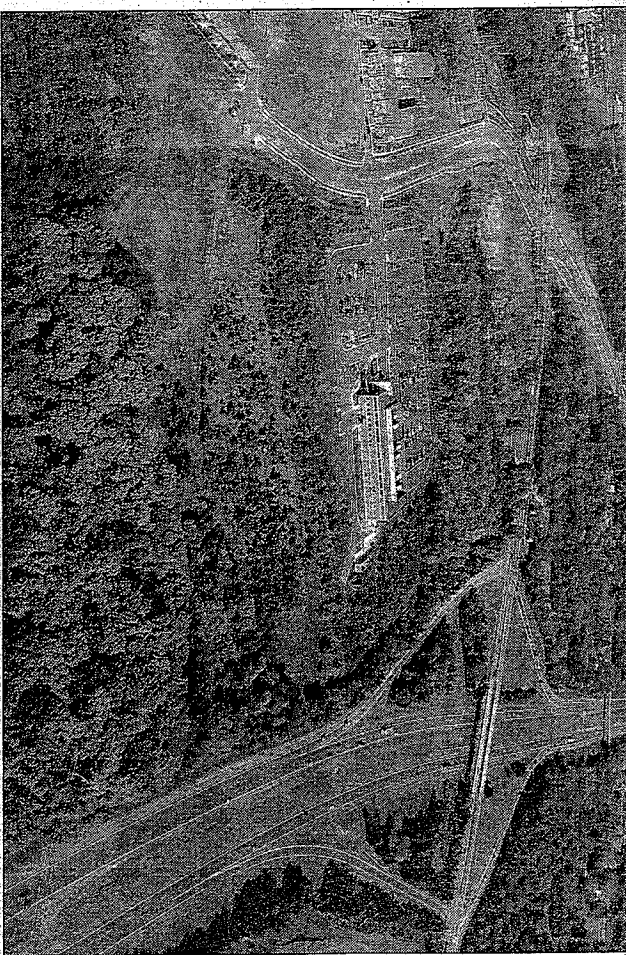
The Certificate of Public Need office recommended denying the application in part because "the area is adequately served by existing and authorized health care services."

The closest hospital to the Haymarket area is Prince William Hospital in Manassas. According to the department's report, that hospital is about 10 miles and a 14-minute drive from the proposed site for the new hospital.

Another new hospital, StoneSpring Medical Center, set to open in Sterling in 2015, could also serve western Prince William County residents, the report says.

But, in their application, Prince William Health Systems officials said traffic in the area often makes that a longer drive and Haymarket area residents need a closer option for medical care.

The hospital, which would



This April 23 aerial shows the Haymarket site for the proposed Prince William Health System/Novant Hospital. The view is east with Interstate 66 running from top to bottom on the right and U.S. 15 running left to right near the top. The proposed site is in the lower center with the existing Heathcote Health Center just above it. [Submitted photo]

**“The area is adequately served by existing and authorized health care services.”**

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S DIVISION OF CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC NEED,**  
on its recommendation to deny a new hospital in the Haymarket area

be at the intersection of U.S. 15 and Interstate 66, would address “the needs of a patient population of more than 180,000 people who currently lack appropriate access to acute care services,” officials said in their application.

The state will accept written public comments about

development, Megan Perry said their decision was made after the recommendation for denial.

“Rather than expending resources when we have little chance for approval, we believe that this time Sentara Healthcare can better serve area residents and add much more value by focusing our efforts on other strategic initiatives,” Perry said.

If approved, Prince William Health System's proposed Haymarket hospital could open in 2015.

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