



Central Office

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January 28, 2020

Sheriff Kelly Lake
Carlton County Sheriff's Office
317 Walnut Street
Carlton, MN 55718

Dennis Genereau
Carlton County Coordinator
317 Walnut Street
Carlton, MN 55718

Sheriff Lake and Mr. Genereau:

First, I would like to thank the County Board and Sheriff Lake for their continued efforts to plan for a new jail facility. Your willingness to work with your county partners to look for solutions for the replacement of the existing Carlton County Jail Facility shows initiative towards a resolution to the public safety needs of your community. However, there has not been a formal resolution by the County Board to move forward with a plan to address the physical plant deficiencies.

During the 2019 annual inspection and past inspections of your facility, numerous physical plant deficiencies were identified. These deficiencies include significant problems with antiquated plumbing, lack of natural light, heating, security electronics, cooling, and overall poor construction. The National Institute of Corrections has determined the average life expectancy of a facility that operates twenty-four hours per day to be approximately 25-30 years depending on facility usage. The Carlton County facility has been in operation for approximately forty years, and has increased capacity for the number of beds originally constructed.

In addition to the facility being beyond the projected life expectancy, the facility also lacks adequate recreation, programming, and other functional space. The design of the facility is also considered linear, and is antiquated and more staff intensive than the design characteristics and operations of the facilities of today. The facility also lacks adequate housing space to be able to ensure proper separation of inmates according to an approved classification system. There does not appear to be any further options to extend the life expectancy, or the operational efficiencies of the existing facility.

All of these deficiencies impact the facility operations and physical plant limitations, as well as impacting the safety and security of the facility, the staff, and the citizens of Carlton County. Based on the limitations of the current facility, physical plant deficiencies, and separation and classification deficiencies the following action shall be set forth:

Due to the numerous deficiencies noted through the past several inspections, and the lack of adequate options to address these deficiencies, the Department of Corrections has determined the next course of action to be a "Sunset authorization." This action is set forth in Chapter 2911.0300 INTENDED USE AND NONCONFORMANCE WITH RULES, subpart 4, letter D.

The sunset authorization provides a date for which the facility will no longer be authorized to hold persons within the facility. The Department of Corrections provides a time frame for which to determine needs, and to make a plan to address those needs. If the final determination is for the county to replace the facility, time is allocated for design and construction of a new facility, or to make appropriate repairs and renovations to meet the county's public safety needs. As such, the sunset date for the Carlton County Jail shall be **July 31st, 2023**.

Our staff from the Inspection and Enforcement Unit are available to assist you and your staff with the transition as set forth in this letter, and with other operational and physical plant concerns that you may have moving forward.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 651-361-7234.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Shanklin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Curtis Shanklin,
Deputy Commissioner
Community Services Division

cc Tim Thompson, Inspection and Enforcement Director
Sarah Johnson, Senior Facility Inspector
Paul Coughlin, Carlton County Jail Administrator
Carlton County Jail file