

 **NORTH COUNTRY HEALTH SYSTEM**
DARTMOUTH-HITCHCOCK ALLIANCE

July 6, 2004

2520043381274

Secretary of Labor
Top-Hat Plan Exemption
Employee Benefits Security Administration
U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-1513
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210

RE: North Country Hospital Deferred Compensation Plan

Dear Secretary:

Pursuant to Section 2520.104-23 of the Department of Labor's Regulations, this letter will serve as notice that, with respect to the North Country Hospital Deferred Compensation Plan (the "Plan"), the undersigned intends to utilize the alternative form of compliance with the reporting and disclosure requirements of Part 1 of Title I of ERISA, which alternative form of compliance is provided in the aforesaid Regulations Section.

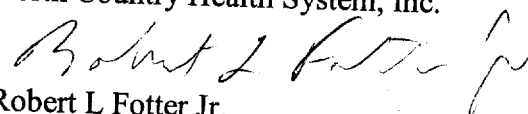
Pursuant to Regulations Section 2520.104-23(b), the following information is provided:


1. Name and Address of Employer: North Country Hospital, Prouty Drive, Newport, VT 05855.
2. Employer's EIN: 03-0185556.
3. The Employer hereby states that it maintains only one plan primarily for the purpose of providing deferred compensation for a select group of management or highly compensated employees, and the number of employees in such Plan is one.

Pursuant to Regulations Section 2520.104-23(b)(2), the Employer will provide Plan documents, if any, to the Secretary of Labor upon request as required by Section 104(a)(1) of ERISA.

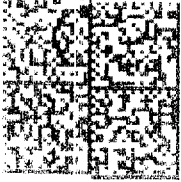
Very truly yours,

North Country Health System, Inc.


Robert L Fotter Jr.
VP of Finance


**NORTH COUNTRY HOSPITAL
& HEALTH CENTER, INC.**
DARTMOUTH-HITCHCOCK ALLIANCE
189 Prouty Drive • Newport, Vermont 05855

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