Appendix A: Request for Variance

Infrastructure Standards for Telecommunications Spaces v4.0

Request Date:	9/12/2024
Government POC:	Tim Stark
Org Represented:	Castle Point VA Medical Center
Email Address:	Timothy.Stark@va.gov
Contact Phone:	914-776-4654
Site, Building #, Room, Mission of the Facility Where Requested (also note admin vs medical specific use):	Castle Point VA Medical Center Building 35 (Boiler Plant) - 104
Variance Requested:	Per Design Alert 7, the A/E is requesting use of a non-standard (environmentally conditioned) TE

Standards Section Title, Number, and Page:	Design Alert 7
Standards Section Text:	1. Space Classification: The space is one of the following: b) Technical spaces such as warehouses, kitchens, laundries, mechanical/electrical plant buildings, chiller or boiler plants, garages, and paint shops. 2. Usage: Usage is limited to a maximum of 96 WAOs. Each data jack in a workspace telecommunications outlet, wired back to the patch panels in the TE, is considered a WAO for these purposes. Where 1-48 WAOs are planned, a 12RU (half-height) standardized TE is used. Where 49-96 WAOs are planned, a 26 RU (full height) standardized TE is used. 3. Environment: Spaces meet the environmental envelope conditions for a TR, as described in Figure 19 and Table 24 of the ISTS. Ambient air conditions in the space are between 41-95 degrees F dry bulb, 8-80% RH, and dew point less than 82.4 degrees F, measured at the intake point of the TE. *If all the above criteria are met, except for paragraph 3, Environment, a NON-STANDARD (Environmentally Conditioned) TE may be considered, and a Variance is REQUIRED
Problem Statement (explain how site/ project exhausted all possibilities to meet standards and why it cannot be achieved due to cost, schedule, architectural constraints, etc.):	Limited space exists in the Boiler Plant for a TE; VA station preference is to avoid taking office/admin space in the building.

Required Detail on Page A-4:

- Missing detail may delay or prevent processing.
- Details vary depending on the nature of the request (see items 1-6 below).

Note: If there are multiple buildings or multiple floors with identical room or building floorplans and designs, then you may use a single request and drawing for that floorplan. Annotate each building and room number that is accurately represented by the drawings.

1. **Telecommunications Room (TR) or Other Space Architecture (Size)**
    a. Number of racks and total data drops (WAOs) versus the total number expected to be active (requiring patching to switches, typically approximately 50%)
    b. Dimensions of the space, not just square footage. The footprint needs to be understood (primarily with 3 ft clearance around racks on all sides).
    c. Other potential locations considered as trade-offs but were deemed unworkable
    d. Attach both the building drawing to see the macro view, architecture, and distances and the TR or other space drawing to see the footprint and other spec requirements.
2. **Telecommunications Room (TR) or Other Space Architecture (Location):**
    a. Number of racks and total data drops (WAOs) versus the total number expected to be active (requiring patching to switches, typically approximately 50%)
    b. Cable distances to WAO
    c. Dimensions of the space, not just square footage. The footprint needs to be understood (primarily with 3 ft clearance around racks on all sides).
    d. Other locations considered as trade-offs but were deemed unworkable
    e. Attach:
        i. Diamond analysis
        ii. Building drawing to see the macro view, architecture, horizontal and vertical distances between other TRs and telecommunications spaces, and distances to adjacent water or RFI sources
        iii. TR or space drawing to see the footprint and other spec requirements
3. **Cabling and Outside Plant:** Attach campus drawing to see the macro view, paths, and distances between other telecommunications spaces.
4. **Power:** Attach schematics of all equipment and connections.
5. **HVAC:** Attach drawings and specs of all equipment.
6. **Other:** Attach specs of all equipment and drawings of telecommunications spaces.

Enter Required Detail:	Please see the attached Diamond Drawing for size, location, and diamond coverage for B.35.
Proposed Alternate Method:	The A/E is proposing a wall-mounted rack in Transformer Room 104.

Plan to Bring Project into Compliance:	
Timeline to Bring Project into Compliance:	
Funding Plan to Complete:	
Choose Temporary or Permanent:	Permanent

Coordinating Instructions:

- Before requesting, review to see if a solution has already been provided for the subject:
  - VHA HEFP EHRM - Guidance Documents from Solution Delivery (sharepoint.com)
  - VHA HEFP EHRM - Design Alerts (sharepoint.com)
- EHRM Variances are requested through EHRM HEFP SEP Network Infrastructure Project Station Inquiry (SI Tool): Healthcare Engineering - Home (sharepoint.com)
- Submit an EHRM HEFP SEP Network Infrastructure Project Station Inquiry - Job Aid.pdf.
- Send all other requests to: OIT Data Center and Infrastructure Engineering (DCIE) VAITESEDatacenterEngineering2@va.gov.
- Subject line: Include Station/Site Name_VISN XX_Project No_ EHRM (if applicable)_High-Level Project Description_Variance Request_(Nature of Request).
- Example: Bronx NY_VISN 10_10-369_EHRM_Remodel MCR_Variance Request_(Power). Submitter must digitally sign the email under the Options heading in Outlook.

Attach all required diagrams, one-line drawings, photos, manufacturer's brochures, and/or other supplemental information to support your application.

What is a variance?

A variance is an allowable deviation from specific requirements of a published standard where a proposed alternate method of installation or operation will provide equal or higher safety, reliability, redundancy, and sustainability objectives. Alternately, under emergency time-sensitive circumstances a temporary variance may be granted without meeting the criteria above with an actionable plan to bring the project into compliance within a reasonable time frame. They should be submitted only as a last resort after the project and site have exhausted all other alternatives to meet specifications.

What will a variance not do?

A variance will not avoid compliance with the intention of a standard section or rule. A variance is not a method to recover from an installation or design error. A variance will not be granted if the alternate method would reduce the safety or effectiveness of the installation or equipment.

What does a variance cover?

If the variance is granted, it shall be limited to the particular site and installation covered in the application and will NOT be considered as a precedent for other installations.

Who may apply for a variance?

Those responsible for compliance with the standards may apply for a variance.

Who grants a variance?

A variance is granted only by DCIE upon written request through the approved process for submission, tracking, and processing. New variance requests embedded in project designs are not actionable for approval. They still need to go through the process.

How is a variance approved?

DCIE will approve, deny, or ask for clarification from their respective mailboxes. Allow a minimum of two weeks for processing. The return email from the DCIE organizational address is proof of the final decision of the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

What are the disposition requirements of the determination?

A record of the variance determination email and any supporting attachments should remain with the project and be attached for context to all future design review or variance requests for the site. Retain the determination on file for the site for use in budgeting and initiating projects to upgrade the infrastructure to minimum ISTS specifications at the next technical refresh.:

VA APPROVED TR LOCATION

TE 104A

1. VA APPROVED TE 104A.
2. TE TO BE ADDED TO EXISTING SPACE IN TRANSFORMER ROOM.
3. TE IS SHARING SPACE WITH A ROOM WITH ANOTHER PURPOSE, AS PER DESIGN ALERT 9 IS NOT ALLOWED. HEFP DOES NOT CONSIDER THIS ROOM TO FALL INTO A CATEGORY OF AN AREA READILY TO GENERAL FOOT TRAFFIC.

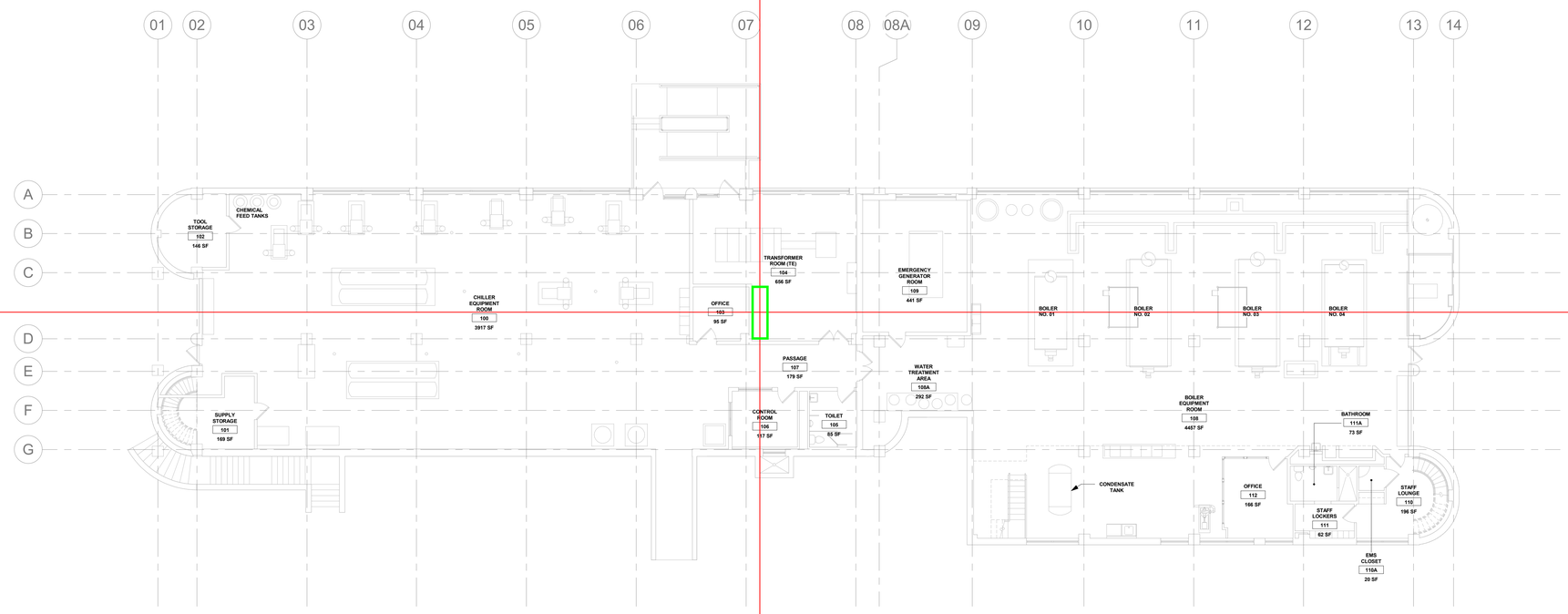
LEGENDS

- EXISTING ORIGINAL TR
- VA PROPOSED TR LOCATION
- A/E PROPOSED TR LOCATION
- VA DISAPPROVED TR LOCATION
- VA APPROVED TR LOCATION

GENERAL NOTES

1. ALL DIAMONDS ARE 80 METERS FROM CENTER

TYPE OF BUILDING : ADMIN



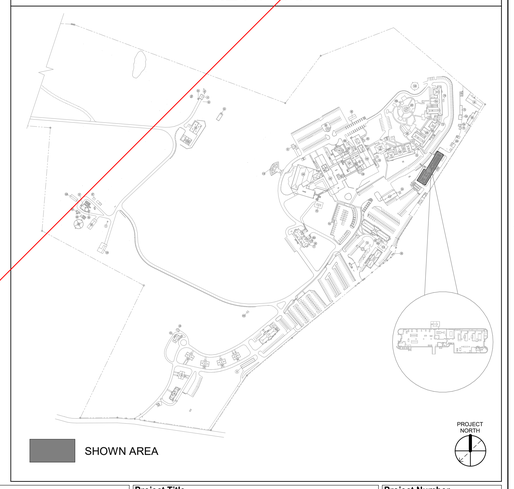
1 LEVEL 01 - FLOOR PLAN

1" = 10'-0"

PROJECT NORTH

0' 5' 10' 20'

KEY PLAN



Revisions:	Date:

CONSULTANT/DISCIPLINE

ENGINEERING DISCIPLINE:

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER OF RECORD

A/E:
SPEES DESIGN BUILD
23830 PACIFIC HIGHWAY S. SUITE 203
KENT, WA 98032

SPEESDESIGNBUILD

STAMP

Office of Construction and Facilities Management

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Drawing Title: BUILDING 35 - LEVEL 01 - FLOOR PLAN	Phase: 95% DESIGN DEVELOPMENT	Project Title: EHRM INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES - CASTLE POINT	Project Number: 620A4-22-700
			Building Number: 35
Approved:	FULLY SPRINKLERED	Location: VA HUDSON VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER, 41 CASTLE POINT ROAD WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY 12590	Drawing Number: 35A-401
		Issue Date: 09/13/2024 · Checked: JG/MA · Drawn: JG/SGS	

BIM 360://620A4-22-700 VAHV EHRM infrastructure upgrades - Castle Point/ACP_35_AR_SDB.rvt
09/09/2024 9:17:48 am

VA FORM 08 - 6231