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## **NEW STATE PRISON IN CENTRE COUNTY WILL HELP EASE OVERCROWDING CONCERNS**

*Request for Proposals on 2,000-Bed Facility to Be Sought This Spring*

**HARRISBURG** – Department of General Services Secretary James P. Creedon announced today that the commonwealth will soon begin the process of building a new, medium-security prison at the State Correctional Institution at Rockview in Centre County.

Department of Corrections Secretary Jeffrey A. Beard, Ph.D. said that the new facility is part of the state's efforts to address an overcrowded prison population. Once completed, the new facility will house up to 2,000 inmates.

"We're building this facility to manage a growing number of inmates, but we're doing so with an eye on costs," said Creedon. "We're approaching this project in a cost-effective manner that will secure the greatest value for the state's taxpayers, while ensuring the completed facilities are efficient and yield long-term savings to the state."

"Pennsylvania's existing correctional institutions are bursting at the seams," said Beard. "The new beds this facility offers are necessary as the population of our prison system has grown by 21 percent over the past six years from 37,995 in 2001 to more than 49,300 today. Looking down the road, we expect an average growth rate of 4 percent each year through 2012."

A design-build request for proposals, or RFP, for the new SCI Rockview facility will be released this spring.

Plans are to build the new facility on state-owned land near the existing prison beginning this summer. The design-build concept will enable construction to begin as soon as possible this year by requiring the successful contractors to design the structures as they are being built.

The project is expected to be completed within three years and will share warehousing and administrative functions with the existing prison to minimize costs to taxpayers. The new Rockview facility is expected to employ approximately 650 people.

The Rockview project is part of a broader state construction initiative that will add nearly 9,000 beds to the state's prison system. Other projects include new prisons in Fayette and Montgomery counties, as well as four additional housing units in Crawford, Forest, Indiana and Northumberland counties.

The new prisons will be certified according to energy-saving Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) ratings.

The General Assembly authorized construction funds for the seven projects—expected to equal \$862 million—through the state's capital budget.

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