



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

AUG 08 2019

The Honorable Josh Hawley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hawley:

Thank you for your July 2, 2019, letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regarding the status of the facilities upgrade at the VA St. Louis Health Care System Jefferson Barracks Division. I appreciate the opportunity to address your concerns.

VA is addressing the concerns raised by former Senator McCaskill which included VA's Office of Inspector General Hotline complaint allegations individually. Collaboratively, the construction contractor and the VA team have implemented some ongoing corrective actions, while others are in negotiation. Despite delays, several aspects of the project including a new central utility plant; a new tenant office building; and a consolidated engineering and warehouse facility have been completed and are in use. Our construction staff continues to work with the contractor to ensure that any remaining corrective actions are being addressed.

Construction on the new outpatient clinic building mentioned in your letter has experienced delays, the most recent of which was a result of damage caused by an infrastructure failure allowing internal water damage inside the building in June 2018. The water damage resulted in the removal and replacement of significant amounts of completed construction. I am pleased to report that the construction for this building is progressing toward completion by the end of 2019, followed by activation which is expected to take approximately 6 months. Parking at the new outpatient clinic is available and has been in use since December 2018.

Should you have further questions, please have a member of your staff contact Mr. Bailey Jackson, Congressional Relations Officer, at (202) 225-2280 or by email at James.Jackson25@va.gov.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert L. Wilkie".

Robert L. Wilkie