



Kay Ivey  
GOVERNOR

**ALABAMA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**AERONAUTICS BUREAU**  
1409 COLISEUM BOULEVARD  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36110  
PHONE (334) 242-6820  
FAX (334) 353-6540



John R. Cooper  
TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

February 12, 2021

The Honorable Tim Estes, Chairman  
Marion County Commission  
P.O. Box 460  
Hamilton, Alabama 35570

**Subject: Annual Inspection Report**  
**Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport (HAB)**

Dear Mr. Estes:

On February 12, 2021, personnel of the Alabama Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Bureau re-inspected Marion County-Rankin Fite Airport via photo review. The purpose of the re-inspection was to ascertain actions taken to correct the safety deficiencies noted in the October 22, 2020 inspection report.

A review of photos provided by the airport sponsor has concluded that the noted obstructions to the Required 20:1 Approach/Departure Path on Runway 36 have been removed. As a result, the airport now **meets** the requirements for an operating license. The operating license for the airport is **re-issued** and is in full effect. A signed license certificate will be mailed separately within a few weeks.

If you should have any questions concerning the inspection or corrective actions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Gus Slaten with the Aeronautics Bureau at (334) 242-6820.

Sincerely,

Frank Farmer  
Chief, Aeronautics Bureau

Copy: Mr. Ryan Constans, FAA/ADO  
Ms. Courtney Tomberlin, Garver  
Mr. Jeff Davis, Airport Manager  
Mr. Mike Shaw, County Engineer



Kay Ivey  
GOVERNOR

**ALABAMA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**AERONAUTICS BUREAU**  
1409 COLISEUM BOULEVARD  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36110  
PHONE (334) 242-6820  
FAX (334) 353-6540



John R. Cooper  
TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

October 29, 2020

The Honorable Tim Estes, Chairman  
Marion County Commission  
P.O. Box 460  
Hamilton, Alabama 35570

**Subject: Annual Inspection Report**  
**Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport (HAB)**

Dear Mr. Estes:

An inspection of the Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport was conducted by personnel of the Alabama Department of Transportation Aeronautics Bureau on October 22, 2020. The purpose of the inspection was to update the information currently on file regarding the airport and to ascertain compliance with the rules and regulations of the Alabama Department of Transportation governing licensed public-use airports within the State of Alabama.

Attached you will find a copy of the Annual Inspection Report. As noted in the report, the airport **does not meet** the requirements for the issuance of an operating license. There are trees obstructing the Required 20:1 Approach Departure Path to Runway 36. Therefore, the Airport Operating License is being **withheld** until the obstruction identified in the report is removed. There are several maintenance items detailed in the report that should be addressed as soon as possible.

If you should have any questions concerning the inspection or corrective actions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Gus Slaten with the Aeronautics Bureau at (334) 242-6820.

Sincerely,

John C. Eagerton IV, D.P.A.  
Chief, Aeronautics Bureau

Copy: Mr. Ryan Constans, FAA/ADO  
Ms. Courtney Tomberlin, Garver  
Mr. Jeff Davis, Airport Manager  
Mr. Mike Shaw, County Engineer

# Annual Inspection Report

October 22, 2020



***Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport  
(HAB)  
Hamilton, Alabama***

**Annual Inspection Report  
Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport (HAB)  
Hamilton, Alabama**

October 22, 2020

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>PAGE 1</b>
<b>INSPECTION METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>PAGE 1</b>
<b>LICENSE STATUS.....</b>	<b>PAGE 2</b>
<b>APPROACH / DEPARTURE PATHS.....</b>	<b>PAGE 2</b>
<b>PRIMARY SURFACE.....</b>	<b>PAGE 4</b>
<b>RUNWAY SAFETY AREA.....</b>	<b>PAGE 5</b>
<b>AIRPORT MARKINGS.....</b>	<b>PAGE 5</b>
<b>WIND DIRECTION INDICATOR.....</b>	<b>PAGE 8</b>
<b>AIRPORT LIGHTING.....</b>	<b>PAGE 9</b>
<b>RUNWAY, TAXIWAY AND APRON CONDITIONS.....</b>	<b>PAGE 9</b>
<b>FUELING AREA REQUIREMENTS.....</b>	<b>PAGE 12</b>
<b>PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES.....</b>	<b>PAGE 13</b>
<b>SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>PAGE 13</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1.....</b>	<b>PAGE 14</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2.....</b>	<b>PAGE 15</b>

# Annual Inspection Report Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport (HAB) Hamilton, Alabama

October 22, 2020

## **Introduction:**

**Code of Alabama 23-1-357(c).** The department may perform such acts, issue and amend such orders and make, promulgate, or amend general or special rules, regulations, and procedures and establish minimum standards, consistent with the provisions of this article as it shall deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this article and to perform its duties hereunder, all commensurate with and for the purpose of protecting and insuring the general public interest, health, welfare, and safety. (Act 2000-220, 10.)

In accordance with the provisions of the Code of Alabama 23-1-357(c) an inspection of the Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport was conducted by Mr. Gus Slaten of the Alabama Department of Transportation Aeronautics Bureau on October 22, 2020.

The corrective actions that may be prescribed in this inspection report do not relieve the airport owner from compliance with any other Federal, State or local laws, ordinances or regulations that may be applicable. It is the responsibility of the airport owner to be aware of and obey all Federal, State or local laws, ordinances or regulations that may have a bearing on the corrective actions that may be specified in this report.

## **Inspection Methodology:**

The inspection of the required State Approach/Departure Path and Federal Runway Protection Zones was accomplished by the use of approved engineering methods and equipment. The angles, locations and heights of trees or other objects within these areas were derived by the use of a Theodolite and electronic distance measuring device.

All other areas of the inspection were conducted visually and photographed for reference purposes.

The FAA Airport Design Standards referred to in this report were taken from the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) dated August 2005.



# Annual Inspection Report Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport (HAB) Hamilton, Alabama

October 22, 2020

## **License Status:**

**Code of Alabama 23-1-375(a).** ...a person or municipality may not operate an airport, restricted landing area, or other air navigation facility without a license issued by the department.

Based upon the findings of the inspection conducted on October 22, 2020, it was determined that the airport **does not meet** the requirements for the issuance of an operating license.

The inspection was conducted on the airport under the provisions of the Administrative Code for the following areas:

### **1. Approach and Departure Paths** **Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(1)** (See Appendix 1)

#### **State Licensing Standards:**

- For all hard surface runways the approach and departure path begins 200 feet from the runway end (runway threshold).
- For all hard surface runways with a displaced threshold, the approach and departure path begins at the point of displacement (See Appendix 1).
- The approach and departure path for all runways slopes up at a ratio of 20:1.
- All penetrations of the approach and departure paths, whether natural or manmade, constitute an obstruction to navigation and must be removed.
- The land beneath the approach and departure path must be controlled by the airport owner. This is accomplished by ownership of the property in fee simple or by written perpetual agreement with the owner of the land.

#### **Inspection Results: VIOLATION**

- Runway 18– No obstructions (See Photo #1).
- Runway 36 – Tree labeled #6 violates the Required 20:1 Approach and Departure Path. Tree labeled #1 is not an ALDOT obstruction violation, however, it will be very soon if not removed. Trees and shrubs in yellow dashed box are recommended for removal to prevent future obstructions (See Photo #2 and Appendix 2).



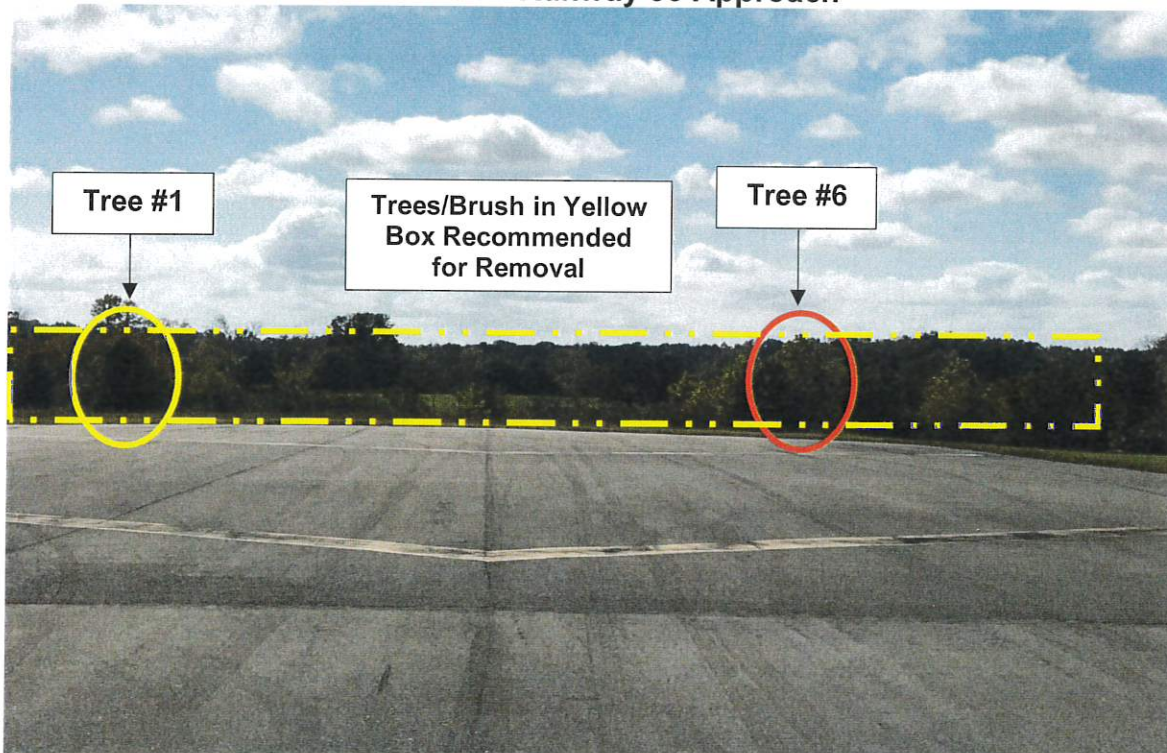
# Annual Inspection Report Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport (HAB) Hamilton, Alabama

October 22, 2020

Photo #1 – Runway 18 Approach



Photo #2 – Runway 36 Approach





# Annual Inspection Report Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport (HAB) Hamilton, Alabama

October 22, 2020

## Required Action:

- Remove all obstructions to the Required 20:1 Approach and Departure Path.
- *Note: The obstructions detailed in this report are representative and may not include all obstructions in the Approach and Departure Path.*

## 2. Primary Surface Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(2)

### State Licensing Standards:

- Primary Surface (See Appendix 1): The primary surface is 250 feet wide, centered on the runway centerline and extends 200 feet past the end of the marked runway. The primary surface is required to be free of all obstructions, manmade or natural. The only allowable objects are runway lights, guidance signs, or navigation equipment that by function is required to be within the primary surface boundaries.

### Inspection Results:

- The primary surface **meets** state licensing requirements (See Photo #3).

**Photo #3—Primary Surface/Runway Safety Area**





**Annual Inspection Report  
Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport (HAB)  
Hamilton, Alabama**

October 22, 2020

**3. Runway Safety Area  
Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(3)**

**State Licensing Standards:**

- Runway Safety Area (Appendix 1): All runways are required to maintain an obstruction free area adjacent to each runway. This area is 120 feet wide, centered on the runway centerline, and extends for a distance of 200 feet past the runway end. The area must be compacted and graded smooth with no ruts, humps, depressions or other potentially hazardous surface variations. The slope along the longitudinal centerline shall not exceed a rise or fall of three percent in elevation relative to the runway end elevation. The lip from the top of the pavement to the grade adjacent to the runway should not exceed 3 inches.

**Inspection Results:**

- The runway safety area **meets** state licensing requirements.

**4. Airport Markings  
Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(4)**

**State Licensing Standards:**

- Airport Markings: All runways are required to be marked in a manner identifying the boundaries of the landing areas. The runway markings must be painted white and be maintained in a legible condition.

**Inspection Results:**

- The runway markings are in **FAIR** condition; however, they are approaching **POOR** condition. The runway markings are becoming obscured due to rubber, soot, and algae deposits (See Photos #4 and #5).
- Taxiway markings and apron markings are in **FAIR/POOR** condition (See Photos #6 and #7).

**Maintenance Required:**

- Clean taxiway and apron markings. If unable to clean, replace in accordance with FAA AC 150/5340-1M.

**Annual Inspection Report  
Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport (HAB)  
Hamilton, Alabama**

October 22, 2020

**Photo #4 – 1000 Ft. Aim Point Marking**



**Photo #5—Runway 18 Identifiers**





**Annual Inspection Report  
Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport (HAB)  
Hamilton, Alabama**

October 22, 2020

**Photo #6—Taxiway and Hold Short Markings**



**Photo #7 – Apron Markings**





# Annual Inspection Report Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport (HAB) Hamilton, Alabama

October 22, 2020

## 5. Wind Direction Indicator Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(5)

### State Licensing Standards:

- Wind Direction Indicators: All airports are required to have an operational wind direction indicator. It must be installed in a highly visible area and free from obstructions to ensure true wind direction and velocity. Night operations require the indicator be lighted.

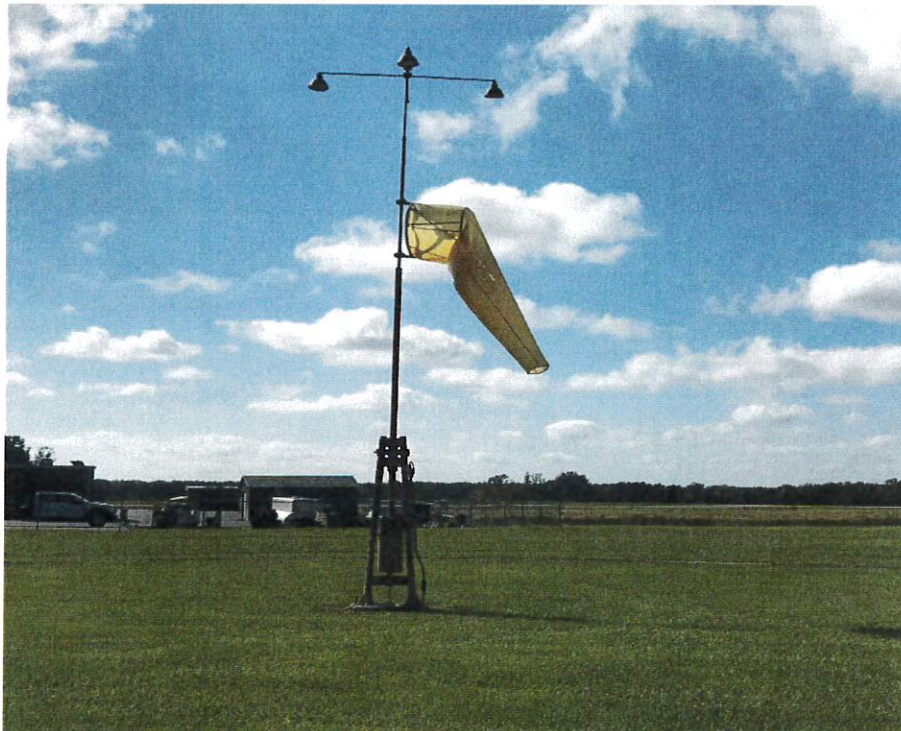
### Inspection Results:

- The wind direction indicator is in **POOR** condition due to fading (See Photo #8).
- One light from the fixture is missing, but a repair was already scheduled.
- Segmented circle is faded.

### Required Action:

- Replace windsock.
- Repair light- was underway.
- Repaint segmented circle white.

Photo #8 – Wind Direction Indicator



**Annual Inspection Report  
Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport (HAB)  
Hamilton, Alabama**

October 22, 2020

**6. Airport Lighting**  
**Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(6)**

**State Licensing Standards:**

- Airport Lighting: Runway lights and a lighted wind direction indicator are required for night operations. A rotating beacon is suggested. All runway, threshold, and taxiway lighting shall be maintained in operational condition and shall not be obscured by natural growth such as grass and/or weeds.

**Inspection Results:**

- An inspection of the lighting system had the following results:

Runway Lights	3 inoperable; 1 broken globe
Taxiway Lights	1 inoperable
Threshold Lights	1 inoperable
PAPI	0 inoperable
REIL	1 inoperable

**Required Action:**

- Repair/Replace inoperable lighting components.

**7. Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions**  
**Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(7)**

**State Licensing Standards:**

- Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions: All airport pavement surfaces associated with aircraft operations must be kept smooth and free of any defect or obstruction that could damage an aircraft. The lip of the airport pavement surfaces must not exceed three (3) inches in elevation from the top of the pavement to the shoulder. The drop should only be enough to allow sufficient drainage and not pose a control problem for aircraft exiting the runway. The aircraft parking apron is for the operation and parking of aircraft only and should be smooth and free of obstructions or defects that could cause damage to aircraft during operations.

**Inspection Results:**

- An inspection of the airport pavement surfaces had the following results:

# Annual Inspection Report Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport (HAB) Hamilton, Alabama

October 22, 2020

<b>Ramp</b>	The main ramp is in <b>GOOD</b> condition, with some slight surface wear (See Photo #9). The secondary (old) ramp is in mostly <b>FAIR</b> condition with some areas in <b>POOR</b> condition (See Photos #10 and #11). The secondary ramp is exhibiting cracking of medium severity and areas of excessive raveling, along with vegetation growth.
<b>Taxiways</b>	<b>GOOD</b> with some slight surface wear and weathering (See Photo #12).
<b>Runway</b>	<b>GOOD.</b>

### **Maintenance Required:**

- Plan a pavement rehabilitation project with airport engineer for the secondary (old) ramp area.

**Photo #9 – Main Ramp (Apron)**





**Annual Inspection Report  
Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport (HAB)  
Hamilton, Alabama**

October 22, 2020

**Photo #10 – Secondary (Old) Ramp Cracking**



**Photo #11 – Secondary (Old) Ramp Raveling**





# Annual Inspection Report Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport (HAB) Hamilton, Alabama

October 22, 2020

Photo #12 – Taxiway Connector



## 8. Fueling Area Requirements Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(8)

### State Licensing Standards:

- Signs should be posted prohibiting open flames or smoking in fueling areas. The fueling facility must be labeled indicating the type fuel being dispensed.
- Grounding cables must be available.
- A fire extinguisher approved for the purpose of extinguishing petroleum product fires available during all fueling operations.
- Serviceable hoses and connections that would preclude a rupture or leaking of fuel.

### Inspection Results:

- The fueling area **meets** the requirements established by the Alabama Department of Transportation Aeronautics Bureau. However, the State of Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries may have additional requirements for fueling systems that were not considered during this inspection.

# Annual Inspection Report Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport (HAB) Hamilton, Alabama

October 22, 2020

## 9. Prohibited Activities Administrative Code 450-9-1-.16

### State Licensing Standards:

- Prohibited Activities: The use of any portion of the aircraft operations area, or airport property within the boundaries of the imaginary surfaces of a licensed airport for any purpose other than the operation of aircraft shall be deemed a non-aeronautical activity and is prohibited.

### Inspection Results:

- No prohibited activities were observed at the time of inspection.

### Summary:

The table below summarizes items noted in this report:

## Inspection Summary

Inspection Area	Violation/Maintenance	Corrective Action
Approach and Departure Paths	<b>VIOLATION</b>	Remove all obstructions to the RWY 36 Required 20:1 App./Dep. Path.
Airport Markings	Maintenance	Clean taxiway and apron markings. If unable to clean, replace in accordance with FAA AC 150/5340-1M.
Wind Direction Indicator	Maintenance	Replace windsock. Repaint segmented circle.
Airport Lighting	Maintenance	Repair/replace inoperable lighting components. Clean globes
Airport Surfaces	Maintenance	Plan a pavement rehabilitation project for the secondary (old) ramp.

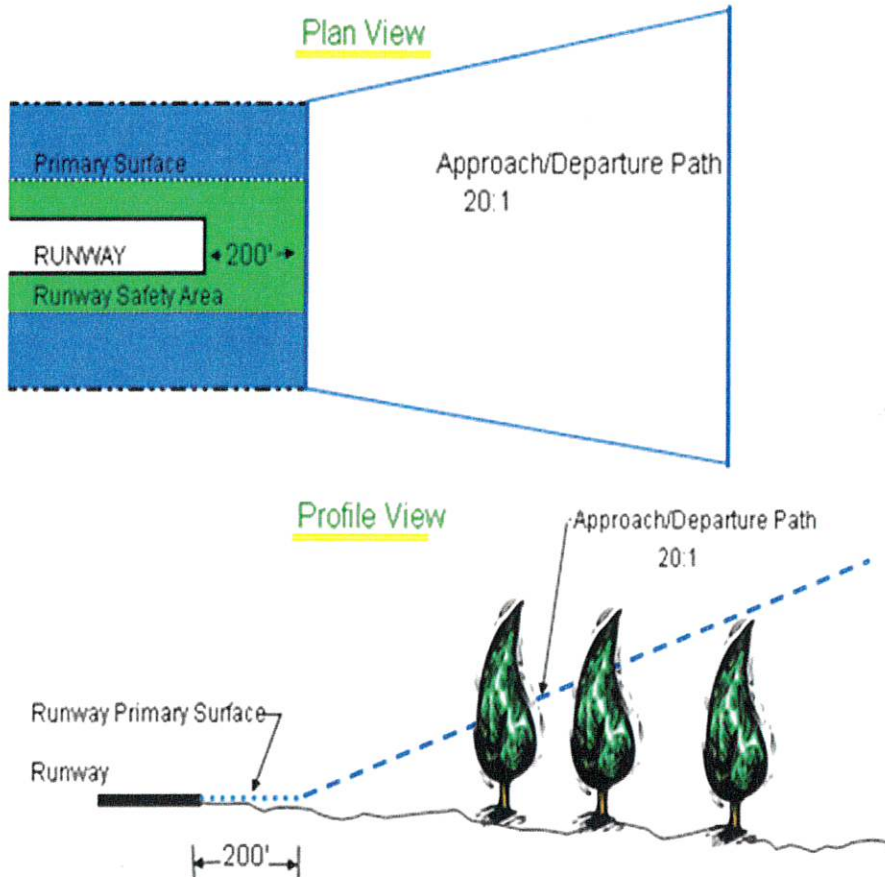
Please contact Mr. Gus Slaten with the Alabama Department of Transportation Aeronautics Bureau at (334) 242-6820 with questions concerning the Annual Inspection Report.



# Annual Inspection Report Marion County – Rankin Fite Airport (HAB) Hamilton, Alabama

October 22, 2020

Approach and Departure Path Dimensions			
Inner Width	Outer Width	Length	Acreage
250 Feet	450 Feet	1,000 Feet	8.04 Acres
Primary Surface Dimensions			
250 Feet Wide Centered Along Runway Centerline Extending 200 Feet Past the Runway End			
Runway Safety Area Dimensions			
120 Feet Wide Centered Along Runway Centerline Extending 200 Feet Past the Runway End			



## APPENDIX I



**HAMILTON-RANKIN FITE AIRPORT  
HAMILTON, AL  
OCTOBER 22, 2020  
RWY 36 OBSTRUCTION EVALUATION**



- Notes:**
1. Drawing not to scale
  2. For informational purposes only and not to be used for any other purpose
  3. Satellite image may not be current

1. Tree 23' Abv. RWY End  
678' From RWY End  
106' Right of Cntln.  
20:1 Obst. Clnc.  
• Not an ALDOT Violation
6. Tree 21' Abv. RWY End  
588' From RWY End  
79' Left of Cntln.  
18:1 Obst. Clnc.

