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John R. Cooper
TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

December 18, 2023

Mr. Donald Bennett, Chairman
Perry County Airport & Industrial Authority
P.O. Box 666
Marion, Alabama 36756

**Subject: Annual Inspection Report
Vaiden Field Airport (A08)**

Dear Mr. Bennett:

An inspection of the Vaiden Field Airport (A08) was conducted by personnel of the Alabama Department of Transportation Aeronautics Bureau on November 20, 2023. 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 for the airport. As noted in the report, the airport **does not meet** the requirements for the issuance of an operating license. Several markings on the runway have faded to the point of being nonexistent. The airfield also lacks a wind direction indicator. Additionally, the lighting deficiencies have not been corrected since the last inspection and the Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) closing the airport to night operations has been allowed to expire. The airport must contact the Leidos Flight Services NOTAM line at 1-877-4-US-NTMS (1-877-487-6867) to re-issue the NOTAM until the lighting system becomes fully operational. Airfield access was not secure at the time of inspection; there was evidence that farm tractors have used the runways and taxiways as a shortcut to access nearby farmland. There are also several maintenance items that need to be addressed.

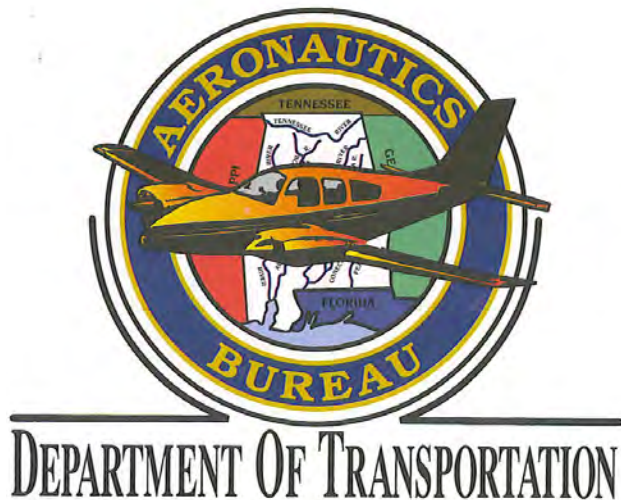
The Aeronautics Bureau would like to schedule a meeting regarding the findings in the attached Annual Inspection Report. The Aeronautics Bureau will reach out in January 2024 to schedule a meeting. In the meantime, should you have any questions concerning the inspection or corrective actions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Jason Hare with the Aeronautics Bureau at (334) 353-6223.

Sincerely,

Frank Farmer
Chief, Aeronautics Bureau

Copy: Mr. Rans Black, FAA/ADO
Ms. Inez Williams, FAA/ADO

November 20, 2023



ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT



**VAIDEN FIELD AIRPORT
MARION, ALABAMA**

Alabama Department of Transportation Aeronautics Bureau—Annual Airport Inspection Report

In accordance with the provisions of the Code of Alabama 23-1-357, an inspection of the ***Vaiden Field Airport*** was conducted by ***Mr. Jason Hare, Mr. Caleb Nall, and Mr. Noah Sowell*** with the Alabama Department of Transportation Aeronautics Bureau on ***November 20, 2023***.

The inspection was conducted on the airport under the provisions of the Administrative Code Chapter 450-9-1 for the following areas:

Aeronautics Administrative Code	Inspection Results	Corrective Action	Notes
Approach & Departure Paths Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12 (1)	<i>In Compliance</i>	N/A	N/A
Primary Surface Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12 (2)	<i>In Compliance</i> <i>Maintenance</i>	Ensure grass is cut within the Primary Surface to prevent brush and trees from creating violations.	Develop a routine mowing schedule.
Runway Safety Area Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12 (3)	<i>Violation</i>	Remove the cable from the easternmost threshold light on Runway 16.	There is an exposed electrical cable inside the Runway Safety Area.
Airport Markings Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12 (4)	<i>Violation</i>	Clean or repaint existing markings.	Several runway, taxiway and apron markings are faded.
Wind Direction Indicator Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12 (5)	<i>Violation</i>	Place a wind direction indicator on the airfield in a visible location.	Wind direction indicator is missing from the airfield.
Airport Lighting Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12 (6)	<i>Violation</i>	Remove broken fixtures from movement areas and replace missing fixtures. Issue NOTAM closing airfield to night operations. Clear brush and grass from obscured airfield lights.	Several runway, PAPI, taxiway and threshold lights were broken, obscured or missing. All lights were inoperable upon time of inspection. Airport must be closed to night operations.
Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12 (7)	<i>In Compliance</i> <i>Maintenance</i>	Remove vegetation growing through pavement cracks and seal cracks. Remove gravel pile adjacent to apron.	There are instances of pavement cracking and vegetation growth. A pile of loose gravel is in close proximity to apron area.
Fueling Area Requirements Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12 (8)	<i>In Compliance</i> <i>Maintenance</i>	Remove fuel filters and cardboard boxes underneath fuel tank.	Cardboard boxes and fuel filters are underneath fuel tank.
Prohibited Activities Administrative Code 450-9-1-.16	<i>Violation</i>	Ensure that unauthorized personnel are not accessing the airfield. An airfield should only be accessed by aircraft and airport personnel conducting inspections and maintenance.	It appears that runways and taxiways have been used by farm tractors as a shortcut to access nearby cotton fields. See Appendix 1, Appendix 2.
Additional Items	<i>Violation</i>	All points of access to the airfield should be secured.	Access to the airfield is not secure.

License Status—**SUSPENDED**

The corrective actions that may be prescribed in this inspection report do not relieve the airport sponsor from compliance with any other Federal, State or local laws, ordinances or regulations that may be applicable. It is the responsibility of the airport sponsor 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.

Code of Alabama 23-1-357(a)... a person or municipality may not operate an airport, restricted landing area, or other navigation facility without a license issued by this Department.

Vaiden Field Airport

Approach and Departure Paths—RUNWAY 16

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(1)



No Obstructions were located in the ALDOT Approach/
Departure Path of Runway 16.

Vaiden Field Airport

Approach and Departure Paths—RUNWAY 34

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(1)



No Obstructions were located in the ALDOT Approach/
Departure Path of Runway 34.

Vaiden Field Airport

REPEAT MAINTENANCE

Maintenance item is a repeat of findings from November 30, 2021 inspection.

Primary Surface

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(2)



MAINTENANCE: Ensure grass is cut within the primary surface to prevent brush and trees from creating violations.

Vaiden Field Airport

Runway Safety Area

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(3)



VIOLATION: Runway Safety Area **DOES NOT MEET** state licensing standards. Remove the exposed cable connected to threshold light from the Runway Safety Area.

Vaiden Field Airport

Airport Markings—Runway

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(4)

REPEAT VIOLATION

Violation is a repeat of findings from November 30, 2021 inspection.



VIOLATION: Runway designation markings are in **GOOD** condition. However, the threshold markings, touchdown markings, centerline markings and side-stripe markings are severely faded and in **POOR** condition.

Vaiden Field Airport

Airport Markings—Runway

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(4)

REPEAT VIOLATION

Violation is a repeat of findings from November 30, 2021 inspection.



VIOLATION: Relocated threshold markings are in **POOR** condition. Yellow runway chevrons are faded almost entirely.

Vaiden Field Airport

Airport Markings—Taxiway

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(4)



Taxiway markings are in **POOR** condition. Existing markings are heavily weathered and faded.

Vaiden Field Airport

Airport Markings—Apron

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(4)



Apron markings are in **POOR** condition.

Vaiden Field Airport

Wind Direction Indicator

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(5)



VIOLATION: Wind direction indicator is **MISSING** from this airfield. All airports are required to have an operational wind direction indicator. The wind direction indicator must be installed in a highly visible area, free from obstructions, to be easily recognized from the air and on the ground.

Vaiden Field Airport

Airport Lighting

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(6)

An inspection of the lighting system had the following results:

Runway Lights	<u>ALL</u> inoperable (9 Broken or Missing)
Taxiway Lights	<u>ALL</u> inoperable (Several broken, obscured or missing)
Threshold Lights	<u>ALL</u> inoperable (2 Missing)
PAPI	<u>ALL</u> inoperable (Obscured by grass)
REIL	N/A

DOES NOT MEET State Licensing Standards for night-time operation. Lighting system is inoperable. Please issue a NOTAM to close the airport to all night operations. It has also been reported by pilots arriving at the airport at night that the rotating beacon is inoperable. **THE AIRPORT MUST BE CLOSED TO NIGHT OPERATIONS.**

Vaiden Field Airport

Airport Lighting—Runway Lighting

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(6)

REPEAT VIOLATION

Violation is a repeat of findings from November 30, 2021 inspection.



VIOLATION: Several runway light fixtures were broken, creating FOD inside the runway safety area and on the runway. Multiple globes were found shattered in pieces on the runway.

Vaiden Field Airport

Airport Lighting—Taxiway Lighting

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(6)

REPEAT VIOLATION

Violation is a repeat of findings from November 30, 2021 inspection.



VIOLATION: Most taxiway lighting was broken, missing or obscured by tall vegetation. All runway, threshold, and taxiway lighting must be maintained in operational condition and must not be obscured by natural growth such as grass or weeds.

Vaiden Field Airport

Airport Lighting—PAPIs

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(6)



MAINTENANCE: PAPI boxes for Runway 34 are completely obscured by vegetation. Clear vegetation so that PAPI lights are visible from the air.

Vaiden Field Airport

Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions—RUNWAY

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(7)



Runway surface is in **FAIR** condition.

Vaiden Field Airport

Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions—TAXIWAY

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(7)



Taxiway surfaces are generally in **FAIR** condition. The incomplete taxiway should be barricaded to prevent aircraft operations.

Vaiden Field Airport

Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions—APRON

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(7)



Apron surface is in **POOR** condition. Apron pavement has fuel stains, cracking and tire marks. Vegetation is appearing through cracks in some areas of apron.

Vaiden Field Airport

Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions— APRON

REPEAT MAINTENANCE

Maintenance item is a repeat of findings from November 30, 2021 inspection.



MAINTENANCE: Remove loose gravel that is near fueling area and apron.

Vaiden Field Airport

Fueling Area Requirements

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(8)



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

Vaiden Field Airport

Fueling Area Requirements

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(8)



MAINTENANCE: Stickers are fading on product tanks. Replace stickers. Replace extinguisher with BC extinguisher when existing extinguisher expires.

Vaiden Field Airport

Fueling Area Requirements

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(8)



MAINTENANCE: Remove fuel filters and cardboard boxes underneath fuel tank. Discard old fuel filters properly and store new fuel filters in a dry location.

Vaiden Field Airport

Prohibited Activities

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.16



VIOLATION: There is evidence that runways and taxiways have been used by tractors to access the cotton fields adjacent to the airfield.

Section 23-1-386(a) of the Code of Alabama states: A person may not trespass upon the area within the boundaries of any airport or operate any vehicles upon or drive across any licensed airport, restricted landing area, or other aeronautical facility, unless the areas are used for administrative, inspection, and maintenance purposes and are operated by the municipalities, counties, airport authorities, department personnel, or municipal law enforcement officers having jurisdiction.

Therefore, steps must be taken to ensure there is no trespassing within the boundaries of the airport.

Vaiden Field Airport

Prohibited Activities

Administrative Code 450-9-1-.16



VIOLATION: Tractor and trailer located on T-hangar taxiway. Relocate tractor and trailer off of taxiway and do not use any portion of the aircraft operations area for any non-aeronautical activity.

Vaiden Field Airport

Additional Items—Closure Barricades



MAINTENANCE: Please place barricades so that the closed taxiway is properly closed off from airfield traffic.

Vaiden Field Airport

Additional Items—Public Access



Access to the airfield is not secure. Ensure all points of access to the airfield are controlled and secured.

Vaiden Field Airport

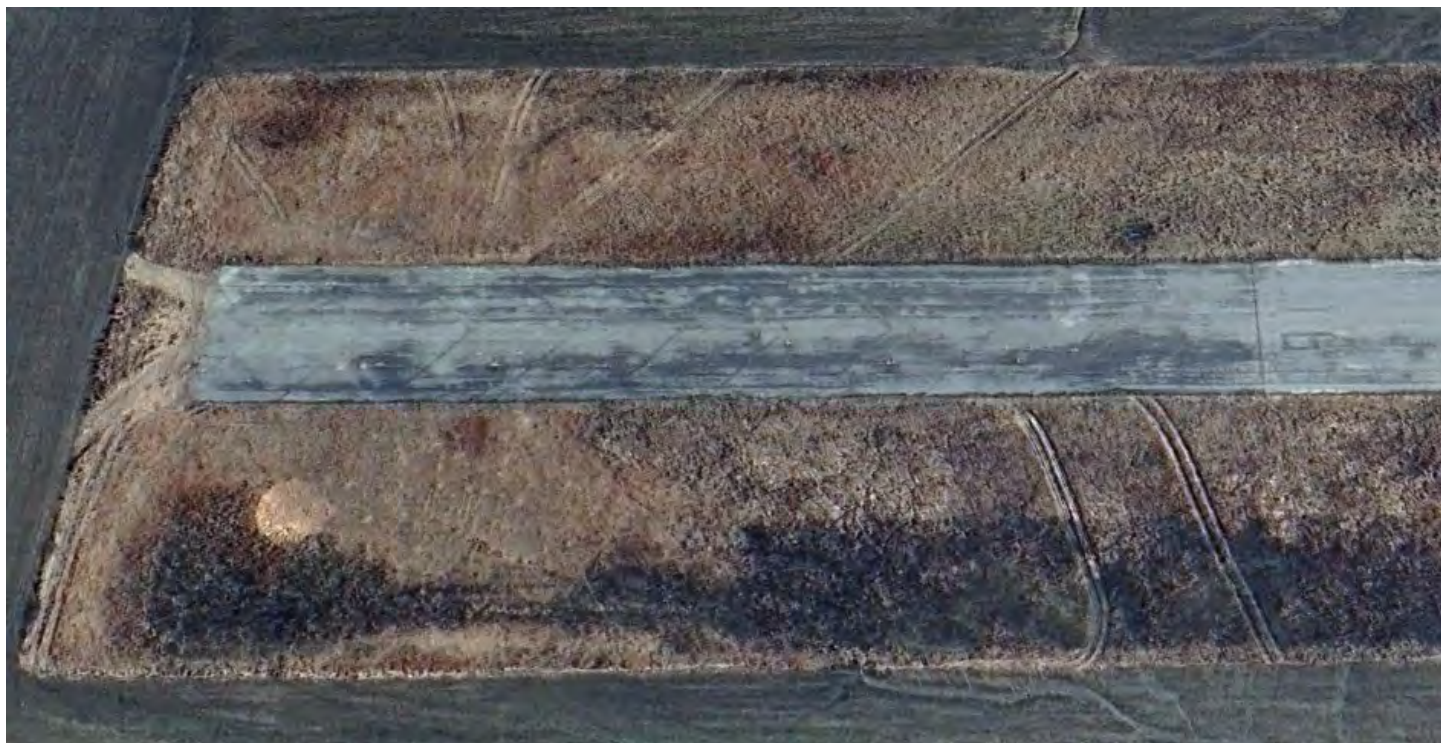
APPENDIX 1



Vehicle paths from the public Vaiden Access Rd. are visible crossing into and through the airfield.

Vaiden Field Airport

APPENDIX 2



Vehicle paths from the adjacent farmland are visible crossing in-to and through the airfield.

APPENDIX 3

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			

