

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Jamie Tunnell Carter, Hyde County Public Information

Hyde County Airport Now Offers Fuel

The Hyde County Airport (7W6), located 7 miles north of Engelhard, North Carolina, is now offering aviation fuel as one of the many upgrades it has experienced this year.

Through grant funds obtained with the help of Talbert and Bright Consulting, the airport has undergone upgrades including a newly renovated terminal, resurfaced runway, improved tarmac and lights. There is also internet capability there so that pilots can check weather, email, and file flight plans. Airport amenities also include a conference room where the Airport Advisory Committee meets.

Jane Hodges, airport manager, will receive training so that daily safety inspections can be done by Hyde County staff.



“This will be a real asset to people who use the airport because refueling previously was only possible by diverting flights to Manteo or Washington,” said Mazie Smith, Hyde County Manager. “It should especially help pilots traveling to and from Ocracoke and traveling to Hyde County from other places.”

This should assist agencies providing emergency services to Hyde County, military users, as well as visitors who use the airport. The N.C. Forest Service leases space at the airport for tanks of fire retardant so that they can be ready if needed to attack forest fires in the area.

The Hyde County Airport utilized \$174,955 of federal funds to facilitate the design, bidding and construction of an AV-GAS Fuel System. Design began in the late spring of 2011 utilizing 2007 Vision 100 funding under grant 36237.57.5.1. In the spring of 2012, another grant (36237.57.7.1), allowed for the construction phase to ensue using 2008 and 2009 Vision 100 funding. Both grants are known as Block grants which are administered by the NC Department of Transportation, Division of Aviation.

To welcome new customers, the fuel is being sold at the low rate of \$5 per gallon. All transactions are by credit or debit card.

This strengthens the county’s bid to be chosen of one of the six sites chosen for RPA (remotely piloted aircraft) testing without any added taxes or other funding from the county. Because of Hyde County’s unique isolation, no conflict with commercial airspace, and location near the water, this location is ideal to put Eastern North Carolina in the public eye for aviation technology development. Ultimately, the goal is to stimulate job growth and draw aviation business into the region.

See the airport website at <http://www.airnav.com/airport/7W6>.

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