



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

Ralph E. Hicks
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: July 6, 2017
Person Contacted: Mr. Michael Marchelletta (RIC FAA FSDO) – Inspector Statement
NTSB Accident Number: ERA17LA229 – Dillwyn, VA

This investigator interviewed Mr. Marchelletta by telephone. He reported the following:

- He was the FAA inspector assigned to the accident involving N272WY.
- The pilot was flying with his 11-year-old son and was attempting to land on a grass strip.
- The strip was built for radio-controlled airplanes, not for general aviation aircraft.
- A total of three attempts were made to land the airplane, the last attempt with full flaps.
- The airplane stalled after the last aborted landing, and crashed into a cornfield adjacent to the grass strip.
- The airplane came to rest in a nose-down position. There was no fire. Structural damage was observed on both wings and the fuselage. The propeller blades separated during the impact sequence.