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Air Safety Investigator
AS-ERA

Date: 9/20/2023

Subject: ERA23LA375, FAA Inspector Statement

Contact: Patricia Chriscoe, Aviation Safety Inspector, Federal Aviation
Administration

Inspector Chriscoe was the FAA operations inspector who spoke with the student pilot and her instructor following the accident which occurred during the student pilot's first solo flight. Below is the statement Inspector Chriscoe emailed to the IIC on 9/19/2023 at 1425 eastern daylight time.

"Statements were taken on 9/18/2023 at Piedmont Flight Training by Inspector Chriscoe

Wendi Leigh Wells- Student Pilot [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]

This was my first solo flight and the winds were only 5 knots today. I did 4 landings with my instructor, and everything went well and so I taxied back to the ramp and he got out of the airplane for my solo. My first landing was really good and I landed and taxied back to the runway. On the 2nd landing the tower extended my downwind for spacing with another aircraft. I had just practiced doing that in a previous lesson and it wasn't a problem. When I came in for the landing, I was lined up and my airspeed was 65 knots. I touched down and I think I held the yoke back a little bit too much and ballooned a little, maybe 10 feet, but not too badly, so I let the nose down a bit and landed. It wasn't a hard landing at all. I think I had tracked off centerline and skidded a little bit to the right. I over corrected and pushed the pedal down to the left and lost directional control to the left and went into the grass and hit

a sign. I remembered to turn everything off except the fuel selector valve. I asked if she had considered a go around, and she said she thought the landing was good enough, but once she lost directional control she thought it was safer to let it go into the grass.

Ethan Blair (CF [REDACTED] phone: [REDACTED] (observed solo from the taxiway)

Written Statement is written and photo taken. After reading the statement I asked him if the tower was told this was a student's first solo because they had extended her downwind and he said he told them, but she did fine with it. I asked him if he had practiced go arounds with Wendi because I saw only 3 logged in the logbook and he responded maybe 3 or 4 times. I asked if he thought she should have performed a go around and he said it looked like a stable approach and the landing wasn't hard after the balloon up. He said she didn't balloon very much and it seemed like she had control until she went off into the grass. I questioned why she had only practiced only 3 or 4 go arounds and he said she never had a problem with performing go arounds. He stressed that she was a very good student."