

Joshua Young
Air Safety Investigator
AS-ERA

Date: 1/3/2024

Subject: ERA24LA079, UAS Operations

Contact: Antoine Tissier, VDC Drone Operation Manager, Clayco

Mr. Tissier was contacted by phone on January 3, 2024, at 1043 eastern standard time to discuss the accident involving a SUAS that was operating under a COA with him listed as the responsible person. He was again contacted by phone on January 31, 2024 at 1041 eastern standard time for clarification on some items. Below is a summary of that conversation:

- The drone mapping is done every week during a project.
- A company SUAS operator was not available to fly for this project, so a sub-contractor was acquired through the use of the company DroneHive.
- Mr. Tissier's understanding was that DroneHive, after he sent them both the COA and project needs, would complete a full briefing with the pilot of the expectations and limitations imposed by these items.
- Clayco has a master service agreement with DroneHive to provide SUAS operators for construction sites when a company operator is not available. It was Mr. Tissier's understanding that the briefing of the 3rd party operators was done by DroneHive as part of their agreement.
- He reported that the 3rd party operator hired in was operating under the Clayco COA.

- As part of the agreement with the 3rd party operators they are supposed to check in with the on-site supervisor to discuss the days operations. This did not happen on the accident flight.
- Mr. Tissier noted that the company has a SUAS fly and photograph the work sites on a weekly basis and that the accident flight was this operator's 9th flight for this project.
- When asked why he was listed as the contact for the COA Mr. Tissier noted that with the turnover of staff on-site it is not practical to list each person as they come and go as the COA cannot be updated without going through the entire approval process. He also noted that the COA cannot be cancelled until the expiration date and his understanding is the FAA does not want multiple COAs for the same project.