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Eastern Region Aviation

Date: 04/22/2024

Subject: ERA24LA183

Contact: Brian Michael - Pilot

The following is a summary from a phone interview with the pilot regarding the accident of N3420E that occurred on 03/31/2024:

The pilot was asked if this was the first flight of the day. The pilot responded that he had a previous flight earlier that day around 9AM and that flight was with a passenger that weighed a little more than the passenger involved in the accident flight. The pilot was asked if there were any mechanical anomalies or failure that contributed to the poor climb performance of the aircraft. The pilot responded that he did not notice anything out of the ordinary. He also responded that the engine appeared to be producing power and the brakes did not appear to be dragging during the takeoff roll.

The pilot was asked about where he received his weather information for the accident flight. The pilot responded that he received his weather information from electronic sources such as Foreflight. The pilot was then asked where he received the wind direction of 219 degrees that is written in his 6120 form. The pilot responded that he recalls retrieving that information from Weather Underground, which has a weather station that is closer to the accident site than the closest METAR reporting station.

The pilot was asked why the takeoff and landing restrictions exist for the Whispering Pines Airport (GA80). The pilot responded that the primary reason is due to a local property owner that owns property to the North of the airport had planted

trees that are very tall, and therefore, it is unsafe to takeoff toward the North or to land heading South.

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