

From: [Ramirez, Richard \(FAA\)](#)
To: [Smith Maja](#)
Subject: RE: WPR20LA259/101761 Vari-Eze N2ZE
Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 2:24:29 PM

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Maja,

On our report, I listed Cantil, CA 93519 as the closest town. Let me know if you are going to list something different. The original location of Kelso, CA was a ROC mistake.

I talked to the pilot of N2ZE on August 11, 2020. He was still at the Kern Medical Center in Bakersfield, CA. He told me broke 3-4 vertebrates in his neck and had surgery on August 10, 2020. I asked him about the accident and he said he must have had a fuel leak. He stated that before he took off from the California City Municipal Airport (L71), he checked the fuel level in the tanks and there were approximately 15 gallons, allowing 3-3 1/2 hours of flight time.

He said that during the flight the engine quit, so he switched between the two wing tanks and the engine did not restart. He tried the fuselage tank and the engine restarted and ran for approximately two minutes before quitting again. He also stated the plane had not flown for approximately six months and that he was the mechanic responsible for the maintenance.

His friend, Mark Geerlings, [REDACTED], accomplished the airplane wreckage recovery.

Best Regards,



Rich Ramirez

Aviation Safety Inspector

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[REDACTED]