



Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Aviation
5702 Gulfstream Road
Richmond, VA 23250-2422
www.doav.virginia.gov

Policy and Procedures Guidance Bulletin 2

Topic: Obstructions and eligibility for state funding December 13, 2006

Issue: With the recent increase in the number of obstructions identified at airports, the Virginia Aviation Board and airport sponsors and managers acknowledged a need to revisit the issue of how the presence of obstructions affects state discretionary airport funding. A committee appointed by the board chair discussed the issue and possible solutions to balance safety and airport needs. The committee's recommendation was presented to the Virginia Aviation Board at its December 13, 2006 meeting.

Guidance: On December 13, 2006, the Virginia Aviation Board adopted the following policy regarding an airport sponsor's eligibility to receive state funding when the airport has obstructions.

Airports that have *FAR Part 77* and/or *VAC 5-20-140* runway end obstructions and can not meet *FAA Advisory Circular 150/5300-13 (Change 10), Runway End Siting Requirements* are not eligible for Commonwealth Airport Fund or Aviation Special Fund discretionary funding. Exceptions will be allowed for the following types of projects:

- obstruction removal and/or mitigation projects
- planning projects to identify obstructions
- security plan and audit projects
- projects deemed by the Virginia Aviation Board chair and the Virginia Department of Aviation as critical to the safety of the flying public or as an emergency

If an airport has unmitigated obstructions, the sponsor may request an exception from the Virginia Aviation Board; however, the sponsor must submit an application to compete for funding at the next Virginia Aviation Board meeting and demonstrate a mitigation plan. The request for an exception is to be used in lieu of the 60-day grace period previously available.

Airport sponsors will continue to certify their obstruction status each time they request funding. They will be able to use one of the following sources, which are valid for 24 months, to support their certification:

- licensed surveyor's report
- FAA 5010 survey
- state airport license survey



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- PhotoSlope survey
- obstruction analysis element of an airport layout plan update
- FAR Part 139 inspection, for air carrier airports only

If an airport is obstructed, the airport sponsor cannot receive new funding from any of the state programs except for projects to mitigate the obstructions; however, the airport sponsor may request a funding increase to an existing tentative allocation or grant.

Reference: This policy change supersedes the information provided in Chapter 5, lines 17 through 19, of the April 2006 version of the *Airport Program Manual*.

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