



# South Dakota Aeronautics Commission



## Agency Purpose

South Dakota's Aeronautics Commission promotes aeronautics, fosters air commerce, and assists the development of aviation and aviation facilities for all phases of the industry and general public in South Dakota.

## Responsibilities

The commission is responsible for aeronautical activities and facilities in South Dakota, including:

- airports
- regulation of potential hazards such as wind turbines and cell phone towers
- support of air commerce.

The commission provides funding for special projects such as pavement maintenance, pavement marking, and weather reporting equipment. It also promotes aviation by providing funding for EAA AirVenture, American Barnstormers, Civil Air Patrol, aviation-related historic exhibits, and ACE Camp.



*From left to right: Transportation Secretary Darin Bergquist; Aeronautics Commission Chairman Buron O. Lindbloom, Pierre; Commissioner Larry Vetterman, Hot Springs; Commissioner Richard L. Pearson, Brandon; Gov. M. Michael Rounds; Vice-Chairman Jack Mitchell, Pierre; Commissioner Vernon C. "Skip" VanDerhule, Yankton; and Commissioner Larry Nelson, Rapid City. Not pictured: newly appointed Commissioner Christopher Funk of Madi-*

## Current Activities

### ***Airport Improvement Program***

The Aeronautics Commission approved nearly \$29.5 million in grants for 44 improvement projects in 2009. These grants included federal and state money. All funding was administered by the Aeronautics Commission and Office of Aeronautics staff.



*New Runway 12/30 at the Chamberlain airport*

### ***American Recovery and Reinvestment Act***

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided \$12.7 million in additional federal funding for South Dakota airport improvements. The money paid for grading work for a new Rosebud airport, site work for a new passenger terminal in Pierre, and runway rehabilitation in Mitchell and Martin.

### ***State Aviation System Plan***

The Office of Aeronautics is updating the State Aviation System Plan. The plan will include an economic impact study, asset inventory, definition of airport roles and objectives, airport approach assessments, and recommendations for the airport system. The plan is scheduled to be done by the summer of 2011.

### ***Inspections***

All public approved airports are inspected annually. Two inspections are done in conjunction with each other—a federal 5010 inspection and a state facility inspection. The inspections focus on safety, pavement condition, lighting, and identifying potential obstructions.

## Aircraft Registration

Aircraft based in South Dakota must be registered. Any aircraft based in South Dakota for more than 90 days within a calendar year must pay an Original Registration Tax and an Annual Registration Fee. The tax is 4% of the airplane's purchase price or the current blue book value of a similar plane. If a plane is used for strictly agricultural spraying, the tax is 3%.

The Original Registration Tax follows the plane throughout its life. If the tax has been paid in South Dakota, it will not be charged again if ownership changes.

The Annual Registration Fee is based on the gross takeoff weight and age of the plane and is due March 31 each year. Planes that are in the state for less than 90 days do not have to pay the Original Registration Tax or the Annual Registration Fee.

## Permits for Tall Structures

Permit applications for tall structures are reviewed by the Aeronautics Office and must be approved by the commission. A tall structure is any object with the potential to be a hazard to aircraft or a hindrance to future local airport development, including antenna towers, water towers, wind turbines, and buildings near airports. The Aeronautics Commission decides, based on state laws, whether or not a tall structure can be built. If commissioners approve a structure, the office sends the applicant a permit and construction can begin.



## Airport Directory

The Aeronautics Office prepares a directory of all public use airports in South Dakota. The upcoming 2011-2012 edition will feature aerial color images of airports and other useful local information for pilots landing at South Dakota airports.

## Contact Information

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