

In the News

SLV Regional Airport: the sky is no longer the limit

Excerpt below from Alamosa News, August 18, 2022

SUMMARY

After a significant investment of time, energy, and resources from a myriad of organizations, agencies and companies, SLV Regional Airport has completed the construction of a new Fuel Farm.

“In 2018, the airport had a functioning fuel farm,” Hickman said, “but it had issues, and there was a problem with state compliance.” Hickman credited Gigi Dennis, who – in her role as Alamosa County Administrator at that time – was successful in negotiating with the state sufficient time for the airport to remedy the situation by construction of a new Fuel Farm.

“The problem was the airport had above ground fuel tanks that were supposed to be used below ground,” Dennis told the Valley Courier after the ceremony. “The Oil and Gas Division is under the Dept. of Labor. When I came in 2015, the state wanted to shut them down, but I asked the state to hold off and promised we would get the tanks replaced. We needed more time to get funding.

“CDOT funded half of the project. We then leveraged that half with DOLA and got another 25 percent. The county had the remainder of the funds, but we were still short. That is when I asked CHFA for funding help and tied it to economic development and vitality for the benefit of the SLV and the airport being a regional airport. Together, we got it done. ”

With construction now complete, SLV Regional Airport now has a 12,000-gallon Jet A fuel tank, the kind of fuel most commonly used in commercial aviation, and a 12,000-gallon tank of Afgas, the most common type of fuel used in piston engine aircraft.

Having sufficient fuel on hand to service both jet engine and piston engine aircraft is required if an airport is going to meet the standards of a Class 1 Commercial Service Airport.

Hickman expressed his thanks to a long list of organizations who were instrumental in constructing the new Fuel Farm, not the least of which was CDOT Aviation, who funded much of the project, along with the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, the county of Alamosa and the Colorado Housing and Financing Authority. Other thanks went to private companies, including JV Aviation, Eaton Metals, ALCON Construction, Centric Air as well as those who serve on the Airport Advisory Board.

Those who chose to address the crowd had a common theme to many of their comments. The airport has gone through great transformation and it barely resembles how it used to be and is a crucial tool for the entire valley, bringing both improved access and the potential for new economic growth.

And much of that was made possible by the new Fuel Farm.

SWANSON RINK provided fueling design for the installation of two new aviation fuel tanks at the San Luis Valley Regional Airport in response to State citations for noncompliance. The intent was to provide two 12,000 gallon fuel tanks (one for Jet A and one for AVGAS) with all required appurtenances to comply with State codes and industry standards.

Swanson Rink has been providing design for airport fueling systems for more than 50 years. Our work has included engineering for JETA, MOGAS, AVGAS and CNG used for ramp vehicles; and has included design for tank farms and

hydrant distribution systems as well as truck loading. In addition to design, Swanson Rink also provides system modeling for flow and pressure analysis and systems commissioning.

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A celebration of all that has been accomplished during the ribbon cutting ceremony at SLV Regional Airport. Three men standing front and slightly to the right of center are (left to right): Airport Manager Will Hickman, Pilot and Director of Business Development for Denver Air Connection Jon Coleman and owner of Country Car Rentals Brad Patterson.

Photo by Priscilla Waggoner