



REGION 3

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

Report Title: Clean Water Act, Section 404 Inspection Report for Preston Hoopes Site
Inspection Date(s): 08/8/2024
Start Time: 11:09 **End Time:** 13:10
Regulatory Program(s): Inspections authorized pursuant to Clean Water Act, Sections 308 and 404 (33 U.S.C. §§ 1318 and 1344)
Site Name: Preston Hoopes
Site Location: Intersection of Loucks Mill Road and T536
Ulysses Township, Pennsylvania 16948
Latitude: 41.892121 **Longitude:** -77.743672
County/Parish: Potter County
Site Owner(s): Preston Hoopes
Mailing Address: 1002 Empson Road
Ulysses, Pennsylvania 16948

DSB-ID #: ECAD-5531

Site Contact(s):
Preston Hoopes
Phone: (434) 996-9173 Email: chelsea@hoopesfamilyfarm.com

EPA Inspector:
Laura Mathew, Inspector, 3ED31
Phone: (215) 814-2061 Email: Mathew.Laura@epa.gov

EPA Inspector Signature/Date	Laura Mathew, Inspector, 3ED31 1600 John F. Kennedy Blvd. Philadelphia, PA 19103	Date
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Supervisor Signature/Date	Katelyn Almeter, Acting Chief SDWA & Wetlands Section	Date
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DSB-ID #: ECAD-5531

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I. Introduction

On August 8, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) conducted an inspection to document current site conditions at the Hoopes property. On My 24, 2024, the EPA issued an information request letter and received a response on July 29, 2024. Subsequently, Ecotune Environmental Consultants (“Ecotune”), a consulting firm retained by the owner, requested a site visit to discuss restoration activities. This inspection was coordinated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”), Pittsburgh District, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (“PADEP”), and Ecotune. The EPA participated in the inspection in support of the USACE, Pittsburgh District, which is the current lead agency for Clean Water Act (“CWA”), Section 404 in this matter.

A. Site Identification

The site is located near the intersection of Loucks Mill Road and T536 in Ulysses Township, Potter County, Pennsylvania; parcel IDs: 280-001031-1A and 290-001-015-6 (“Site”, Attachment 1 – Site Map). The eastern portion of the property is actively being farmed. The western portion of the property has been mowed.

B. Weather and Environmental Conditions

The weather conditions during the inspection were cloudy with a high near 85°F. According to the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration’s Record of Climatological Observations for the Galeton, PA, station (USC0036130), a total of 0.04 inches of rain was recorded on August 8, 2024, however. The recorded rainfall at the Galeton, PA, station for the preceding seven-day period before the inspection are displayed in **Table 1** below.

Table 1 – Recorded Rainfall

Date	Rainfall (inches)
7/31/2024	1.01
8/1/2024	0.00
8/2/2024	0.36
8/3/2024	0.76
8/4/2024	1.35
8/5/2024	0.00
8/6/2024	0.70
8/7/2024	0.19

C. Inspection Opening Conference

Opening conference was held on a property located to the south of the Site along Loucks Mill Road at 11:09 AM. Introductions were conducted, the EPA inspector displayed her credentials to the Site representative and inspection attendees. Attendees of the inspection included Laura Mathew of the EPA’s CWA Section 404 enforcement program, Lianna Johnson of the USACE, Pittsburgh District, Kipp Starks of the PADEP, and Patrick Gavaghan of Ecotune.

Ecotune stated that Preston Hoopes recently purchased this neighboring property (parcel ID 290-001-015F) and has previously farmed parts of the property (parcel ID 290-001-015-6) between Loucks Mill Road and the Genessee River. This area is currently mowed.

The EPA has not made a determination on whether the site/facility is a small business. Should the site/facility find it applicable, the U.S. EPA Small Business Resources Information Sheet can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-06/documents/smallbusinessinfo.pdf>.

II. Site Activity

The Site is privately owned, and the majority of the property has been used for agriculture. Four-inch drain tiles have recently been installed in areas identified as wetlands that have been newly converted for agricultural use. At the time of the inspection, the newly converted areas were not used for agriculture and appear to be mowed. Additionally, the portion of the Genessee River that flows through the property has been culverted with a 10-inch drainpipe.

III. Observations

Following opening conference, the inspection began upstream in the Genessee River at the southern end of the recently installed, 10-inch drainpipe. The area was densely vegetated with herbaceous vegetation and water was observed flowing into the drainpipe (Attachment 3 – Photographic Log; DSCN5556 and DSCN5557). The area to the east has been mowed. Ecotune stated that wheat had been farmed in the area to the east of the Genessee River but is currently just mowed to maintain it. Ecotune also stated that when Mr. Hoopes installed the 10-inch drainpipe into the Genessee River, he side-casted material and spread it around.

The inspection continued downstream. The location of one of the 4-inch drainpipes was identified, the area was vegetated with herbaceous vegetation and fill material was observed on the ground surface (DSCN5558). Moving further downstream, the inspector observed vehicle tracks in the area east of the Genessee River with standing water present, and an unused 4-inch and 10-inch drain discarded in vegetation near the Genessee River (DSCN5559, DSCN5562, and DSCN5563).

The inspection continued to the north along the Genessee River to the Hoopes property (Attachment 1 – Site Map). A mowed field was noted to the west between the Genessee River and Loucks Mill Road (DSCN5567). The inspection walkthrough continued to a location of a possible drainageway based on pre-inspection review of aerial imagery of the Site. The area was within a slight depression and a variety of grasses were observed, including crabgrass. A soil boring (SB-01) was conducted at 41.8925171, -77.7447140 within the slight depression (Attachment 2 – Soil Boring Locations). The soil boring contained dense roots near the surface and was characterized as: [0-7 inches] 100% 7.5YR 3/2; [7-12 inches] 95% 7.5YR 4/1 silty loam with 5% 7.5YR 4/6 redoximorphic features (DSCN5569). The soil profile met the technical definition of a hydric soil (Indicator F3). The soil was saturated, and evidence of mixing in the soil profile was observed. The area had 100% vegetation cover that consisted primarily of grass.

The inspection moved to the south and vehicle depressions were observed in the field. Surface water was present in the vehicle depressions at the time of the inspection (DSCN5570 and DSCN5571). A culvert under Loucks Mill Road was observed with water flowing to the Site (DSCN5572). Ecotune stated this culvert had recently been installed, replacing an older culvert.

A second soil boring (SB-02) was conducted at approximately 41.89207228, -77.7442227

(Attachment 2) and was characterized as: [0-4 inches] 100% 7.5YR 3/2 silty loam; [4-12 inches] 60% 2.5YR 4/1 silty loam with 40% 7.5YR 4/6 redoximorphic features (DSCN5577). The soil profile met the technical definition of a hydric soil (Indicator F3). The soil was saturated and surface water was observed nearby (DSCN5576). The area had approximately 85% vegetation cover that was comprised of grass.

A third soil boring (SB-03) was conducted in the mowed area at approximately 41.8919129, - 77.7445052 in an area upgradient from SB-02 (Attachment 2). The soil boring was characterized as: [0-8 inches] mixed matrix with 90% 7.5YR 4/2 and 10% 7.5YR 5/2 silty loam; [8-14 inches] 60% 7.5YR 5/3 silty loam with 40% 7.5YR 5/8 redoximorphic features (DSCN5580). No hydrology was observed, approximately 80% of the area was vegetated with herbaceous vegetation including grass, clover, and docks.

The inspection moved along the Genessee River to the culvert under Loucks Mill Road (DSCN5581). The downstream end of the 10-inch drainpipe was observed, water was flowing out of the drainpipe and through the culvert. Indicators of an Ordinary High Water Mark were observed downstream of the culvert including a change in the plant community along the bank and the bed and bank of the Genessee River were stable and well vegetated (DSCN5582 to DSCN5586). Water was flowing in the river at the time of the inspection at an approximate depth of 7 inches (DSCN5587).

The inspection concluded at the areas where the cars were parked.

IV. Records Review

A review of Site or facility records was not a component of the inspection; therefore, the EPA is not expecting to access business records, including confidential business information ("CBI"). If the Site or facility owner wants to make a CBI claim on information or photographs collected by the inspector during the inspection, they can submit a claim to the EPA. After the Site or facility representative notifies the EPA of the CBI, the EPA representative will mark the CBI as such, and it will be handled as CBI according to the EPA's procedures.

V. Closing Conference

A. Overview

Closing conference was conducted after concluding the inspection walkthrough at approximately 13:10. Ecotune asked about permit requirements for restoration work that will be completed on the property. USACE will follow up with permit requirements. EPA, USACE, PADEP, and Ecotune discussed restoration activities, which include:

- Removal of the 10-inch drainpipe from the Genessee River;
- Potentially install in-stream features in the Genessee River for erosion control;
- Removal of all 4-inch drainpipes located within the identified wetlands;
- Daylight 4-inch drainpipes outside the wetland boundary; and
- Disturbed areas will be allowed to naturally revegetate.

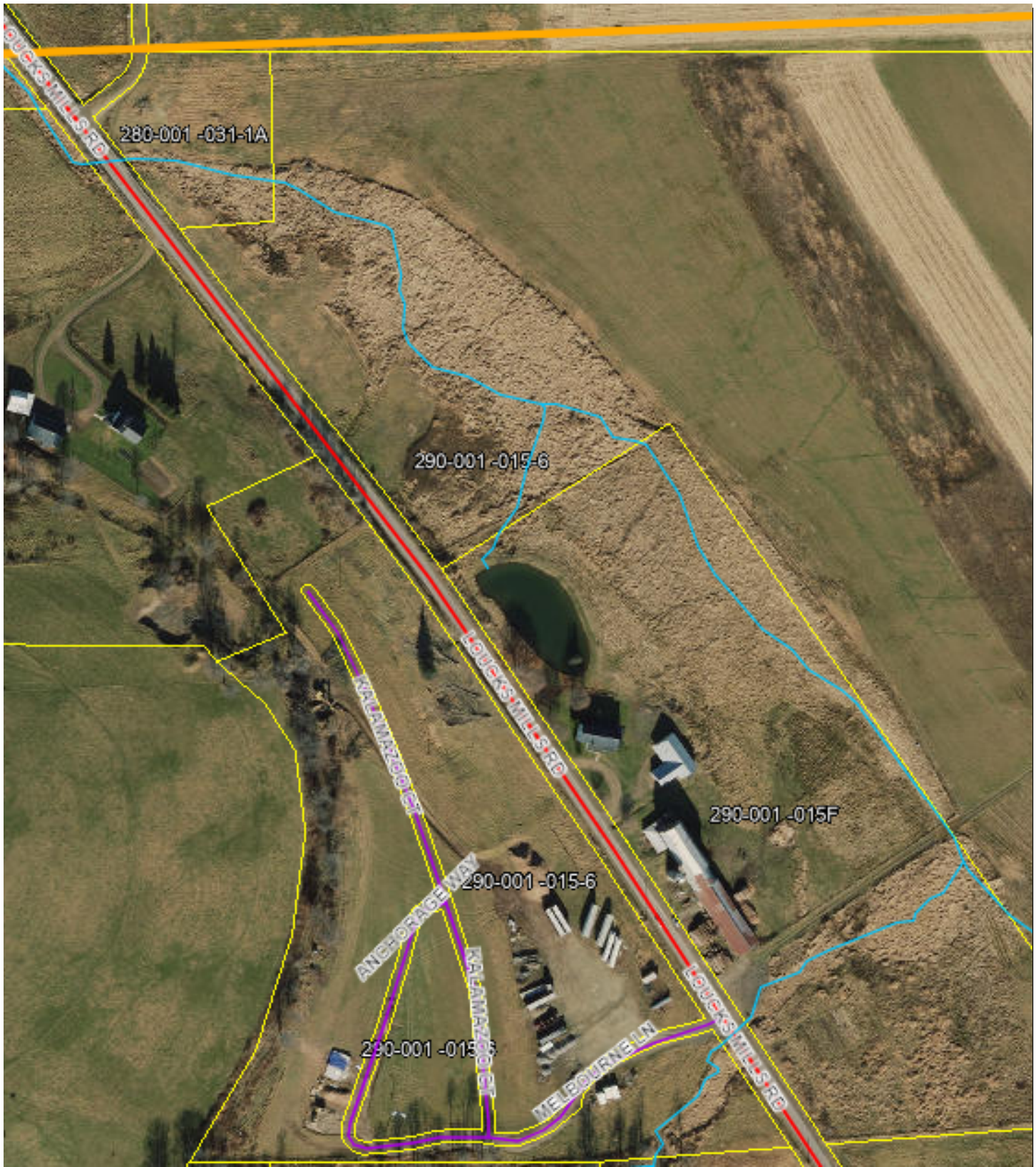
PADEP also mentioned that restoration work will not be allowed to be conducted during the time of year restrictions for wild trout spawning season that starts in October.

B. Observations Relayed to Site Representative

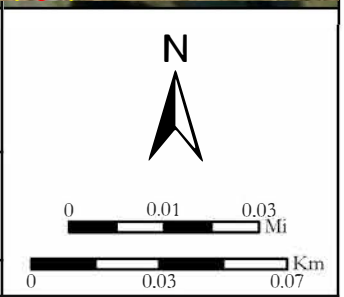
The EPA communicated that an inspection report including observations and photographs documented today would be completed and disseminated within 60 days.

VI. List of Attachments

- Attachment 1: Site Map
- Attachment 2: Soil Boring Locations
- Attachment 3: Photographic Log

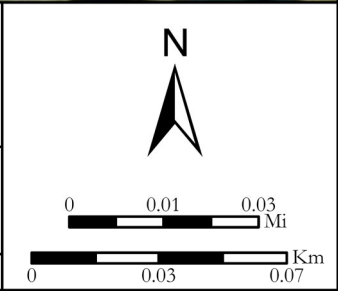


Attachment 1 - Site Map	
Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, USFWS, Maxar, Microsoft	2024
Coordinate System: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere	





Attachment 2 - Soil Boring Locations	
Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, USFWS, Maxar, Microsoft	2024
Coordinate System: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere	





Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5555.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: General view facing north of the Hoopes Property.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5556.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Upstream end of the 10-inch drainpipe installed in the Genessee River.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5557.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Downstream view of the flowpath of the 10-inch drainpipe.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5558.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: View of the surface above a drain tile that had been installed.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5559.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Debris observed in the field during the walkthrough.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5560.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: North facing view of the Genessee River with an installed 10-inch drainpipe.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5561.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: North facing view further downstream of the Genessee River.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5562.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Surface water noted on east side of the Genessee River.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5563.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Unused drain observed in the vegetation during walkthrough.

	Hoopes Property Date: 8 August 2024 Photo ID: DSCN5564.JPG Photo taken by: Laura Mathew Notes: Looking west along the property boundary line.
	Hoopes Property Date: 8 August 2024 Photo ID: DSCN5565.JPG Photo taken by: Laura Mathew Notes: Northwesterly view looking towards Loucks Mill Rd of the Hoopes property.
	Hoopes Property Date: 8 August 2024 Photo ID: DSCN5566.JPG Photo taken by: Laura Mathew Notes: South-facing view along former fence line.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5567.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: North-facing view of area between Genessee River and Loucks Mill Road.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5568.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: View of Soil Boring #1.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5569.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Another view of Soil Boring #1.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5570.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Vehicle depression with surface water present.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5571.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Vehicle depressions with surface water present.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5572.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Outfall of stormwater drain under Loucks Mill Road.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5573.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Inlet of stormwater drainage under Loucks Mill Road.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5574.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Northeast view overlooking the Hoopes property from the culvert along Loucks Mill Road.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5575.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Location of Soil Boring #2.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5576.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Standing surface water near location of Soil Boring #2.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5577.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: View of Soil Boring #2.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5578.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Another view of Soil Boring #2.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5579.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Location of Soil Boring #3.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5580.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: View of Soil Boring #3.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5581.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Downstream view of the Genessee River flowing into culvert under Loucks Mill Road.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5582.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Southeast view of the Genessee River downstream of culvert.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5583.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: View of the Genessee River flowing out of the culvert under Loucks Mill Road.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5584.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Another view of the Genessee River flowing out of the culvert.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5585.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: East facing view of Genessee River.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5586.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: View of vegetation in and around the Genessee River.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5587.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Depth of the Genessee River downstream of the culvert.



Hoopes Property
Date: 8 August 2024
Photo ID: DSCN5588.JPG
Photo taken by: Laura Mathew

Notes: Width of the Genessee River.