

**Northeast District**

745 Gaines School Road  
Athens, Georgia 30605  
706-369-6376

**July 20, 2023**

**Trip Report**

**To:** Derrick Williams

**Through:** Jamie Lewis



**From:** Serenity Cowart



**Date of Trip:** July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Trip By:** Jamie Lewis, Sam Wood, Serenity Cowart and Courtney Wilson from Georgia Department of Agriculture

**Facility Name:**

**Officials Contacted:** N/A

**Observations:**

**July 20, 2023:** At 1:30 PM Jamie Lewis, Sam Wood, and I along with Courtney Wilson from the Georgia Department of Agriculture met with the complainant on Williams Creek in Taliaferro County. Upon arrival, the complainant took us to the location downstream from the soil amendment property where he first observed the discolored creek bank and water. Photos 1-8 depict the current state of the creek on the day of the trip similar to the photos submitted by the complainant (Complainant photos submitted to CTS). Next, we went upstream to the property that the complainant believed caused the impacts documented in the creek. This property was a former hog farm that is now being used to store and spread soil amendments. At the soil amendment property, photo 9 depicts the lagoon where the soil amendment is stored. Photos 10-12 depict photos near the lagoon. Photo 10 specifically depicts a photo of discolored water and dark soil similar to photos of the creek downstream from the soil amendment property. An employee on the soil amendment property told us that lagoon is pumped into a tank on a tractor where this photo was taken. Photos 13-18 show a creek on the soil amendment property. This creek shows the same discolored banks and waters like the puddle with soil amendment shown in photo 10. Photos 19-23 show a creek on an adjoining property downstream from the property land applying the soil amendment. This creek also shows the same discolored banks and waters. Based on our observations, we conclude that the discoloration on the creek banks and waters are due to soil amendment from this property entering State Waters. The soil amendment in Waters of the State have caused a Violation of the Georgia Water Quality Act. Photo 24 is a Google Earth image with points of where the photos were taken.



**Photo #1:** 7/20/2023

**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart

**Observations:** Significant amount of dark discoloration of creek banks and water. Photo taken downstream of the property applying the soil amendment.



**Photo #2:** 7/20/2023

**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart

**Observations:** Significant amount of dark discoloration of water. Photo taken downstream of the property applying the soil amendment.



**Photo #3:** 7/20/2023

**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart

**Observations:** Significant amount of dark discoloration of water. Photo taken downstream of the property applying the soil amendment.


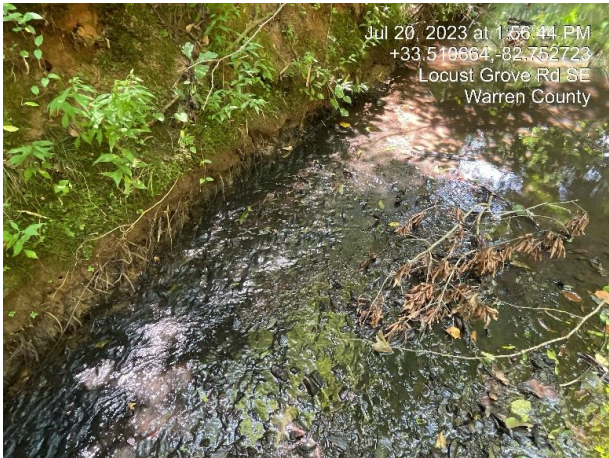




**Photo #4:** 7/20/2023

**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart

**Observations:** Significant amount of dark discoloration of creek banks and water. Photo taken downstream of the property applying the soil amendment.



	
<p><b>Photo #5:</b> 7/20/2023  <b>Photographer:</b> Serenity Cowart  <b>Observations:</b> Significant amount of dark discoloration of creek bed and water. Photo taken downstream of the property applying the soil amendment.</p>	<p><b>Photo #6:</b> 7/20/2023  <b>Photographer:</b> Serenity Cowart  <b>Observations:</b> Significant amount of dark discoloration of water. Photo taken downstream of the property applying the soil amendment.</p>
	
<p><b>Photo #7:</b> 7/20/2023  <b>Photographer:</b> Serenity Cowart  <b>Observations:</b> Significant amount of dark discoloration of water. Photo taken downstream of the property applying the soil amendment.</p>	<p><b>Photo #8:</b> 7/20/2023  <b>Photographer:</b> Serenity Cowart  <b>Observations:</b> Significant amount of dark discoloration of creek bed and water. Photo taken downstream of the property applying the soil amendment.</p>





**Photo #9:** 7/20/2023  
**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart  
**Observations:** Photo of the lagoon.



**Photo # 10:** 7/20/2023  
**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart  
**Observations:** Photo near lagoon. An employee informed us that this is where the soil amendment is pumped from the lagoon into the tractor.



**Photo #11:** 7/20/2023  
**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart  
**Observations:** Photo near lagoon.



**Photo #12:** 7/20/2023  
**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart  
**Observations:** Photo near lagoon.





**Photo #13:** 7/20/2023

**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart

**Observations:** Photo of creek on the soil amendment property showing discolored creek banks and waters.



**Photo #14:** 7/20/2023

**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart

**Observations:** Photo of creek on the soil amendment property showing discolored creek banks and waters.





7/20/23 3:29 PM  
33° 31' 17" N 82° 45' 40" W  
257° W  
4000 Locust Grove Rd SE  
Taliaferro County

**Photo #15:** 7/20/2023

**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart

**Observations:** Photo of creek on the soil amendment property showing discolored creek banks and waters.



7/20/23 3:29 PM  
33° 31' 16" N 82° 45' 40" W  
159° S  
4000 Locust Grove Rd SE  
Taliaferro County

**Photo #16:** 7/20/2023

**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart

**Observations:** Photo of creek on the soil amendment property showing discolored creek banks and waters.

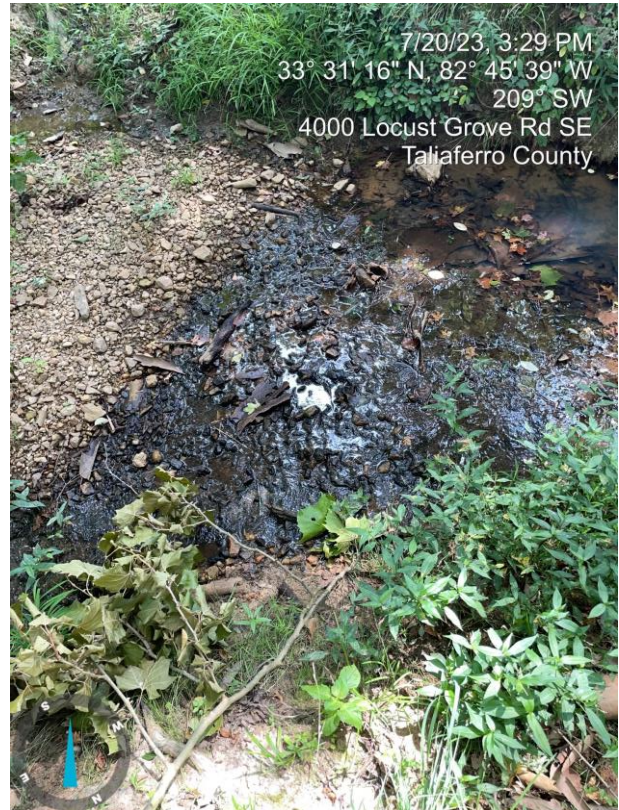




**Photo #17:** 7/20/2023

**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart

**Observations:** Photo of creek on the soil amendment property showing discolored creek banks and waters.



**Photo #18:** 7/20/2023

**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart

**Observations:** Photo of creek on the soil amendment property showing discolored creek banks and waters.



**Photo #19:** 7/20/2023

**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart

**Observations:** Photo of a tributary on an adjacent property downstream from the property applying soil amendment.



**Photo #20:** 7/20/2023

**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart

**Observations:** Photo of a tributary on an adjacent property downstream from the property applying soil amendment.





**Photo #21:** 7/20/2023

**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart

**Observations:** Photo of a tributary on an adjacent property downstream from the property applying soil amendment.



**Photo #22:** 7/20/2023

**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart

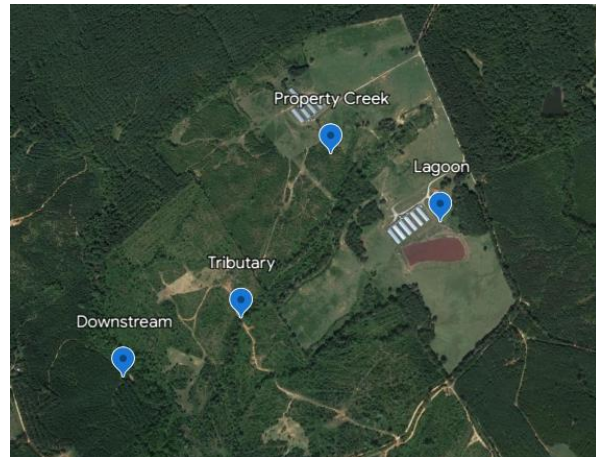
**Observations:** Photo of a tributary on an adjacent property downstream from the property applying soil amendment.



**Photo #23:** 7/20/2023

**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart

**Observations:** Photo of a tributary on an adjacent property downstream from the property applying soil amendment.



**Photo #24:** 7/20/2023

**Photographer:** Serenity Cowart

**Observations:** Google Earth view of property. The point “Downstream” is the property the complainant brought us to located downstream from the property believed to have caused the impacts documented in the creek. The point “Property Creek” is the small creek on the soil amendment property. The point “tributary” is the location on an adjacent property that is downstream from the soil amendment property.