

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

SECTION 202 DICKENSON COUNTY NONSTRUCTURAL PROJECT
DICKENSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CONSOLIDATED MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL COMPLEX
DICKENSON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**APPENDIX P – VIRGINIA SPIRAEA FIELD SURVEY,
DOUGLAS OGLE, JUNE 2012**

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

HUNTINGTON DISTRICT

HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

NOVEMBER 2012

To: Lance DeBord
D.R. Allen and Associates
100 Campbell St SW
Abingdon, VA 24210

and

Sumalee Hoskin US Fish & Wildlife Service
6669 Short Lane
Gloucester, VA 23061

From: Douglas W. Ogle
300 Poor Valley Road
Saltville, VA 24330-3691
dougogle@comcast.net
(276) 274-3841

Date: 1 June 2012

Re: Dickenson County Schools, Consolidated Campus, Project #12-595

Dear Mr. DeBord,

I received the consolidated school project Mitigation Map-On-Site, dated 14 May 2012, and reviewed it. This is a locality I have visited many times, most recently on 17 April 2012 in connection with bridge construction on Rt. 83, just upstream.

I did sequential contracts for USACE in this area over a three year period attempting re-establishment of *Spiraea virginiana*. Three clones were ultimately out-planted in the immediate area. One thrived and the other two were destroyed, so there are several areas containing appropriate habitat near the proposed construction. The most suitable area, where the species may have occurred in the past, is on the south bank of the Cranes Nest River, just downstream from the mouth of Big Branch. This area has been bank stabilized several times in the past, and has been massively disturbed by both natural and anthropomorphic actions. It has been filled, grassed, and mowed for many years.

When I was doing the initial feasibility surveys for the out-plantings, I carefully surveyed this entire area and walked up Big Branch to approximately stream crossing #4 on the Mitigation Map. There was no appropriate habitat further upstream than the temporary wetland crossing illustrated on the map. The stream had a well-developed canopy and did not have sufficient flow to accomplish the erosion necessary to maintain this species. **No populations of *Spiraea virginiana* are present on proposed construction areas as shown on the Mitigation Map.**

As a result of having re-visited the area many times and over many years, I feel confident about these statements without the necessity of another redundant field

survey. If you have further questions or comments, I would be happy to address them. I am emailing a copy of this note directly to USFWS, and if they have concerns I will be happy to contact them directly.

Thank you very much.