

Case Number 13-C319-016-CRS	Case Title Newton Township – Well Water Contamination
Activity On-Site Interview of Jim Aasen	Date of Activity August 26, 2014

Narrative¹

At approximately 8:22 AM on Tuesday, August 26, 2014, Special Investigative Warden Robert Stroess, in plain clothes, met with James “Jim” Aasen at Aasen’s residence, [REDACTED] Two Rivers, WI as part of a pre-arranged meeting to transport Aasen to the Hecker Road City of Manitowoc gravel pit/former dump site. This was an agreed upon investigative strategy decided by Stroess, other DNR staff, City of Manitowoc staff, and City of Manitowoc consultant David Henderson during a February 4, 2014 conference call. The purpose of Aasen’s on-site interview was to see if Aasen could recall specific locations at the site where he had investigated complaints of environmental violations when he was the conservation warden in Manitowoc County.

Stroess recognized Aasen from many past contacts and later identified him by DNR license records as follows:

James A. Aasen
Male
D.O.B. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Two Rivers, WI 54241
[REDACTED]

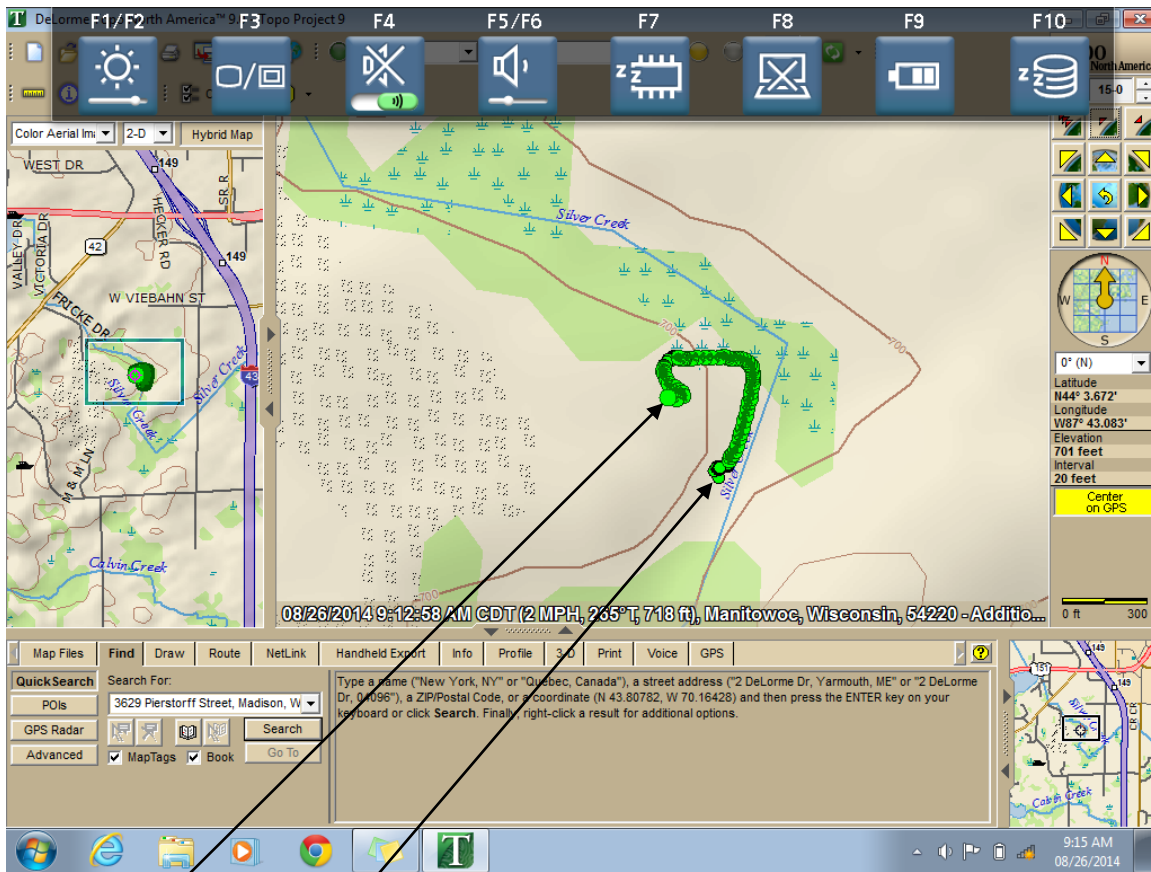
Stroess and Aasen traveled in Stroess’ squad and arrived at the Hecker Road site at 8:47 AM. They were met by a person verbally identified as David “Dave” Henderson from AECOM, the company hired by the City of Manitowoc as a consultant for the site. Stroess had earlier confirmed with Dan Koski of the City of Manitowoc that Henderson would be meeting Stroess on site to shadow the interview. Henderson got into Stroess’ squad.

Stroess asked Aasen to recall where he had entered the property and what he remembered about specific locations on the property where he had investigated complaints of environmental violations. Aasen directed Stroess to drive to various locations on the site. Stroess used the program Delorme Topo North America 9.0 to determine GPS locations as pointed out by Aasen as follows:

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Warden Reporting Robert Stroess	Date of Report August 27, 2014	Exhibit Reference
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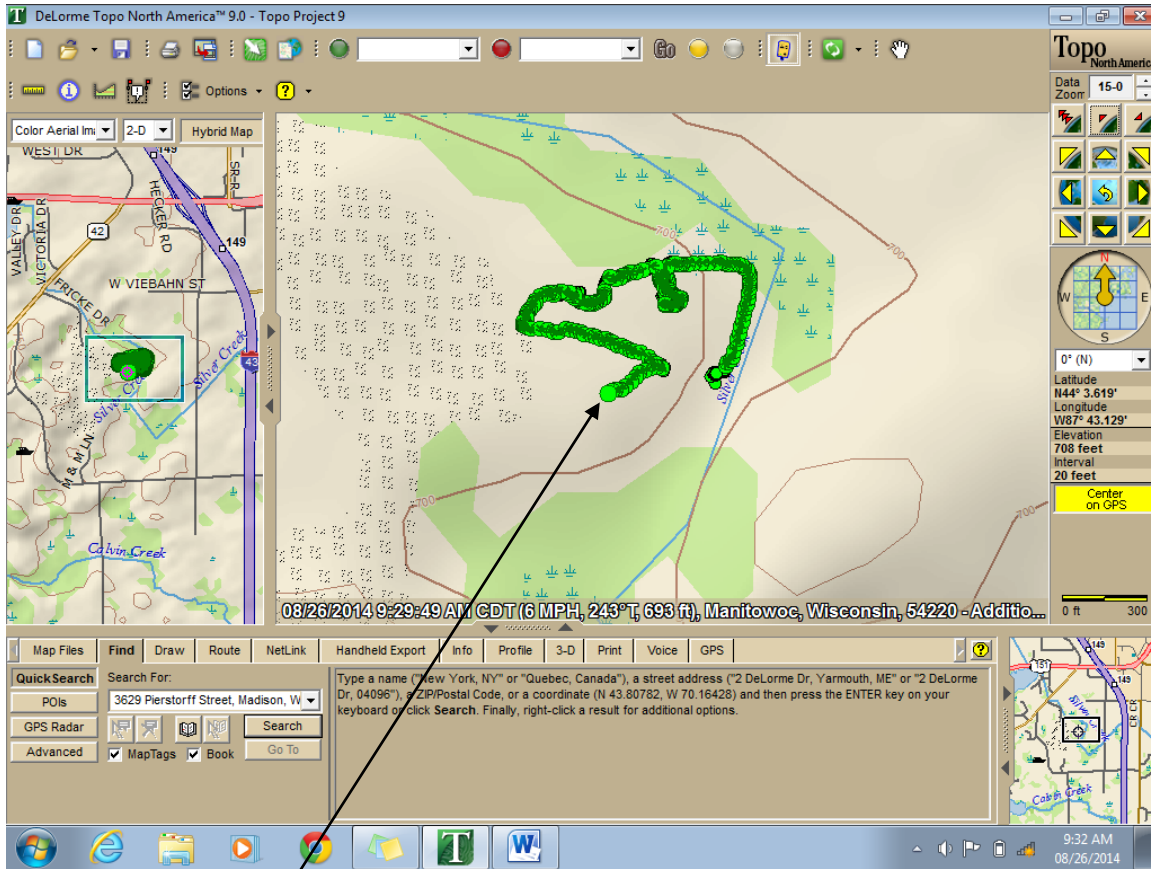
This location was where Aasen said he remembered seeing a steep site where it seemed a vehicle could back in and dump over an embankment and into a pit to the west. Stroess took a photo over the edge showing the drop off (see photo #1). The access drive into this location is in the immediate vicinity of where Aasen remembered the access drive being. He didn't know if it was this exact drive, another one next to it, or one that was no longer in existence but was in the immediate vicinity. The GPS reading on the right side of the screen was from this location (N44° 3.672', W87° 43.083').

This location was where Aasen said he remembered a building(s) often staffed by a person he presumed to be a City of Manitowoc employee and dog kennels had been. Stroess did not record a GPS reading at this location, but it was at the NE corner of a gravel/dirt road intersection, west of Silver Creek, and at the time Stroess, Aasen, and Henderson were there it had a standing shed, had many logs and stumps deposited there, and had a fence around stacks of blue 55-gallon-type barrels.

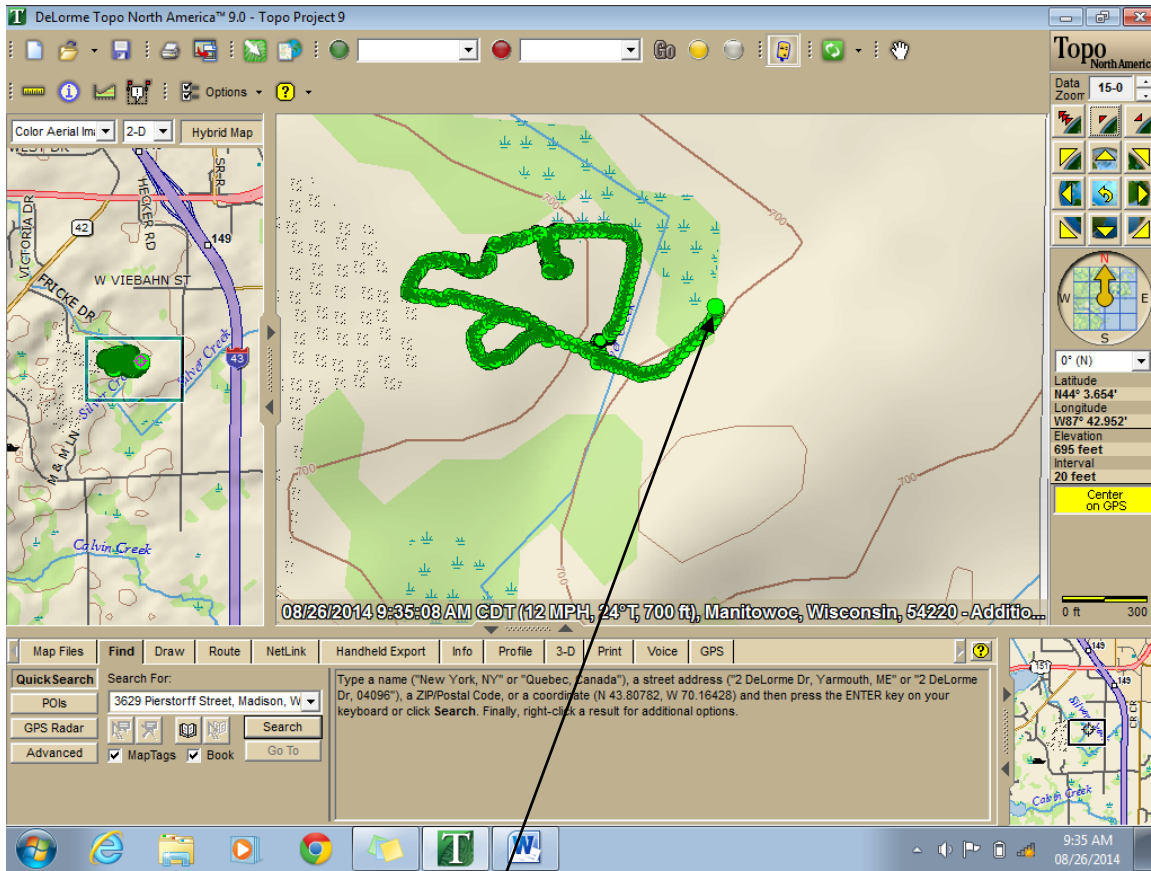
Photo #1



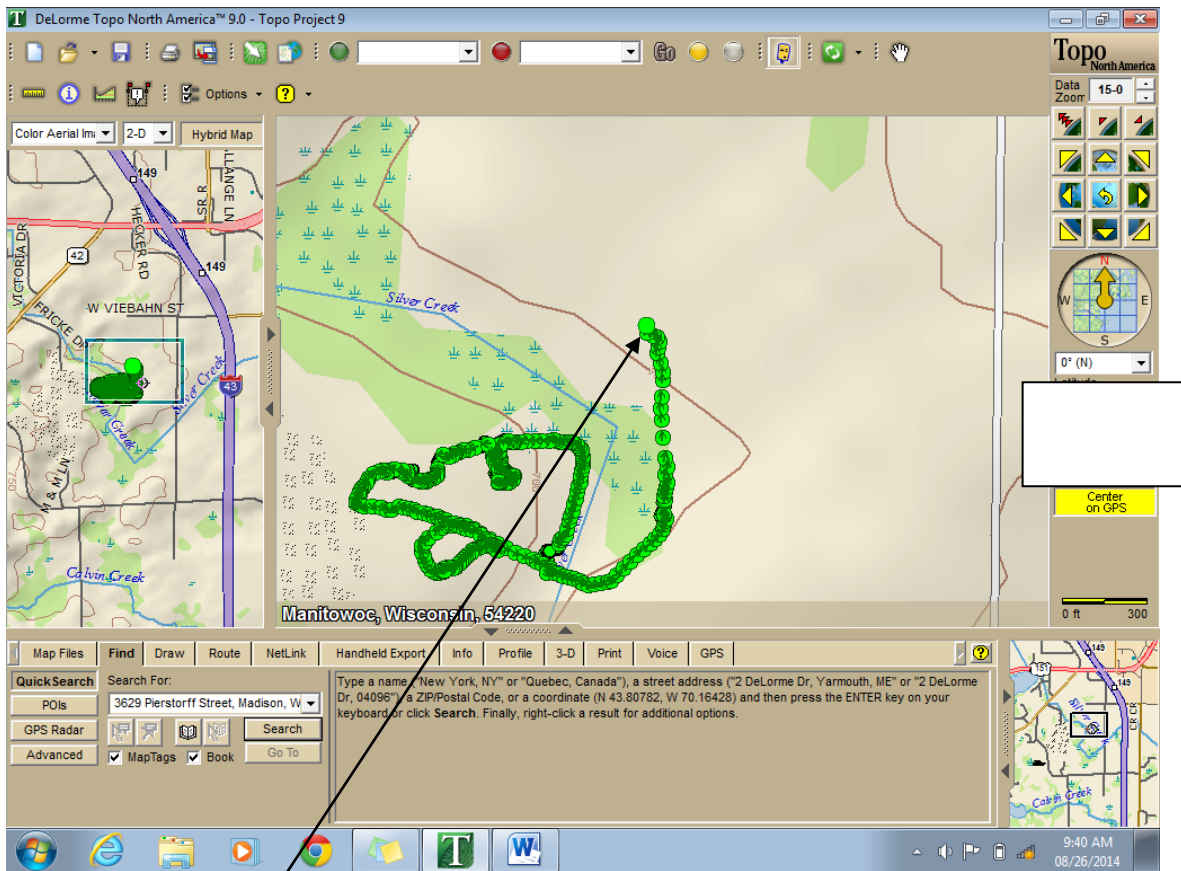
Above: Facing west, looking down over the embankment at the approximate location Aasen recalled as being a possible dump site



This general location was where Aasen remembered investigating accusations of the City of Manitowoc Fire Department disposing of various chemicals. He couldn't confirm the accusations. The GPS reading on the right side of the screen was from this location (N44° 3.619', W87° 43.129').



This is the gate that Aasen referred to in reference to accessing the location listed as #2 during his interview with Liz Heinen and Annette Weissbach on January 10, 2014. The GPS reading on the right side of the screen was from this location (N44° 3.654', W87° 42.952').



This is the location listed as “#2” that Aasen referred to in his January 10, 2014 interview with Heinen and Weissbach. The GPS reading on the right side of the screen IS NOT correct for this location, as Stroess did not hover the cursor over the green dot, therefore Stroess blocked out the GPS location to avoid potential confusion. The location was at the north end of a dirt road through the woods, ended at an interior field that appeared to be a former shooting range, and had an old car and a shed in it.

At 9:45 AM Henderson exited Stroess’ squad, then Stroess and Aasen left the site. Stroess dropped Aasen off at Aasen’s residence at 10:23 AM.

Case Number 13-C319-016-DRS	Case Title Newton Township – Well Water Contamination
Activity On-Site Interview of Robert Hansen	Date of Activity August 26, 2014

Narrative¹

At approximately 10:51 AM on Tuesday, August 26, 2014, Special Investigative Warden Robert Stroess, in plain clothes, met with Robert Hansen at Hansen’s residence, [REDACTED], Manitowoc, WI as part of a pre-arranged meeting to transport Hansen to the Hecker Road City of Manitowoc gravel pit/former dump site. This was an agreed upon investigative strategy decided by Stroess, other DNR staff, City of Manitowoc staff, and City of Manitowoc consultant David Henderson during a February 4, 2014 conference call. The purpose of Hansen’s on-site interview was to see if Hansen could recall specific locations at the site as he had described during a December 20, 2013 interview regarding his dumping of chemicals at the site during the 1960s.

Stroess recognized Hansen from his previous interview and therefore recorded his identification from his earlier interview statement as follows:

Robert D. Hansen
Male
D.O.B. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Manitowoc, WI 54220
[REDACTED]

Stroess and Hansen traveled in Stroess’ squad and arrived at the Hecker Road site at 10:59 AM. They were met by a person verbally identified as David “Dave” Henderson from AECOM, the company hired by the City of Manitowoc as a consultant for the site. Stroess had earlier confirmed with Dan Koski of the City of Manitowoc that Henderson would be meeting Stroess on site to shadow the interview. Henderson got into Stroess’ squad.

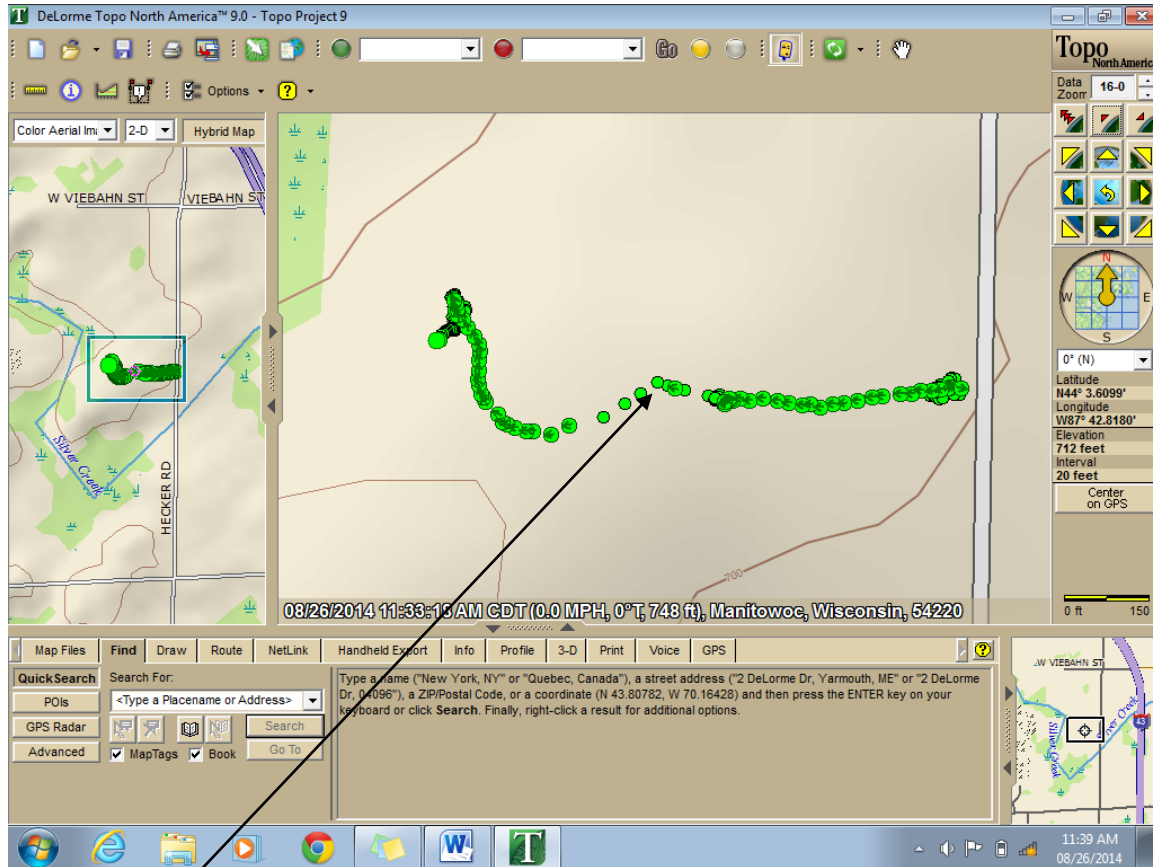
Stroess asked Hansen to recall where he had entered the property and what he remembered about specific locations on the property. Hansen directed Stroess to drive to various locations on the site. Stroess used the program Delorme Topo North America 9.0 to determine GPS locations as pointed out by Hansen.

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Warden Reporting Robert Stroess	Date of Report August 27, 2014	Exhibit Reference
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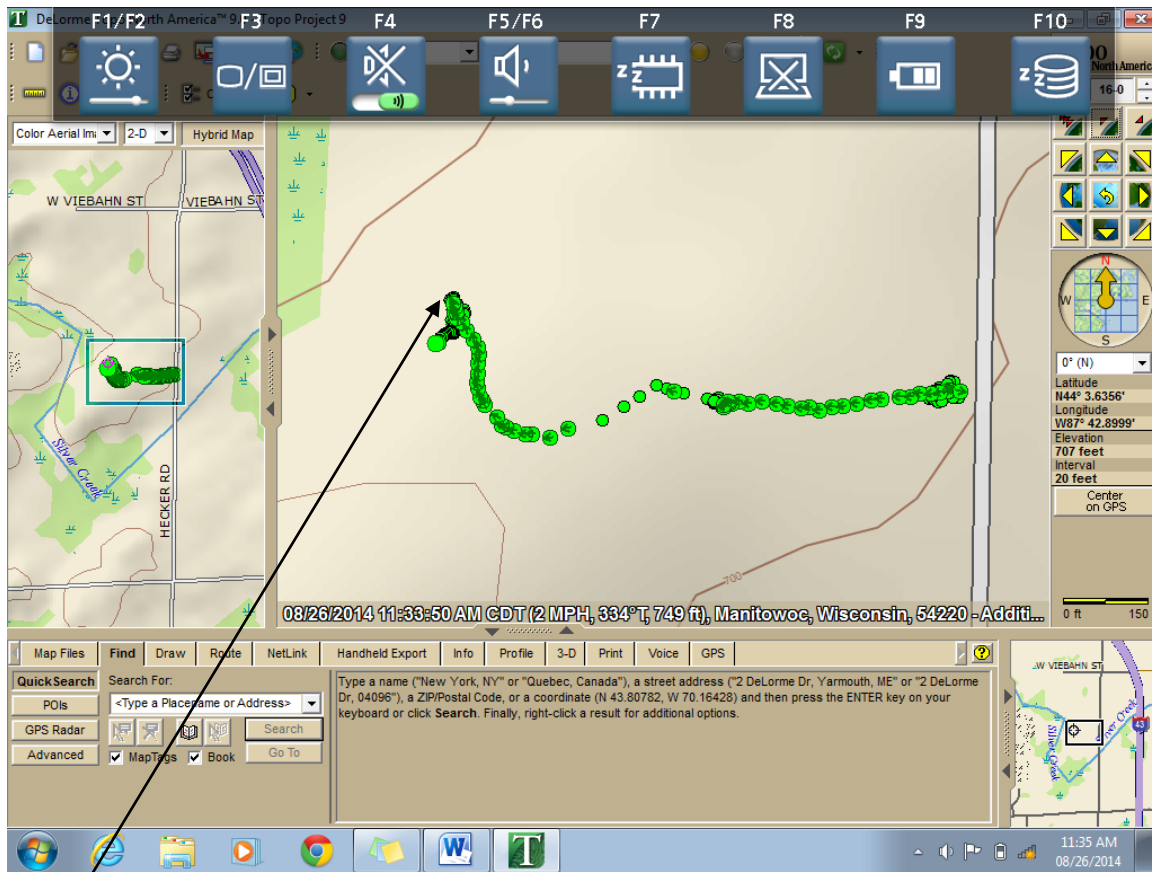
Hansen looked at the driveway entrance to 3320 Hecker Road (immediately north of Silver Creek at Hecker Road) and said he believed it to be the driveway or approximately the same location as the driveway he had used to access the City of Manitowoc dump site during the 1960s. He believed the residential buildings currently at that address were in the general location of where the police department stray animal pound had been in the 1960s. While driving back to the main entrance, Stroess asked about the barricaded former driveway area approximately 50 yards from the 3320 Hecker Road driveway. Hansen said the south driveway he had used to access the site in the 1960s was just as likely to be either the 3320 Hecker Road driveway or the barricaded driveway south of the main/only current entrance.



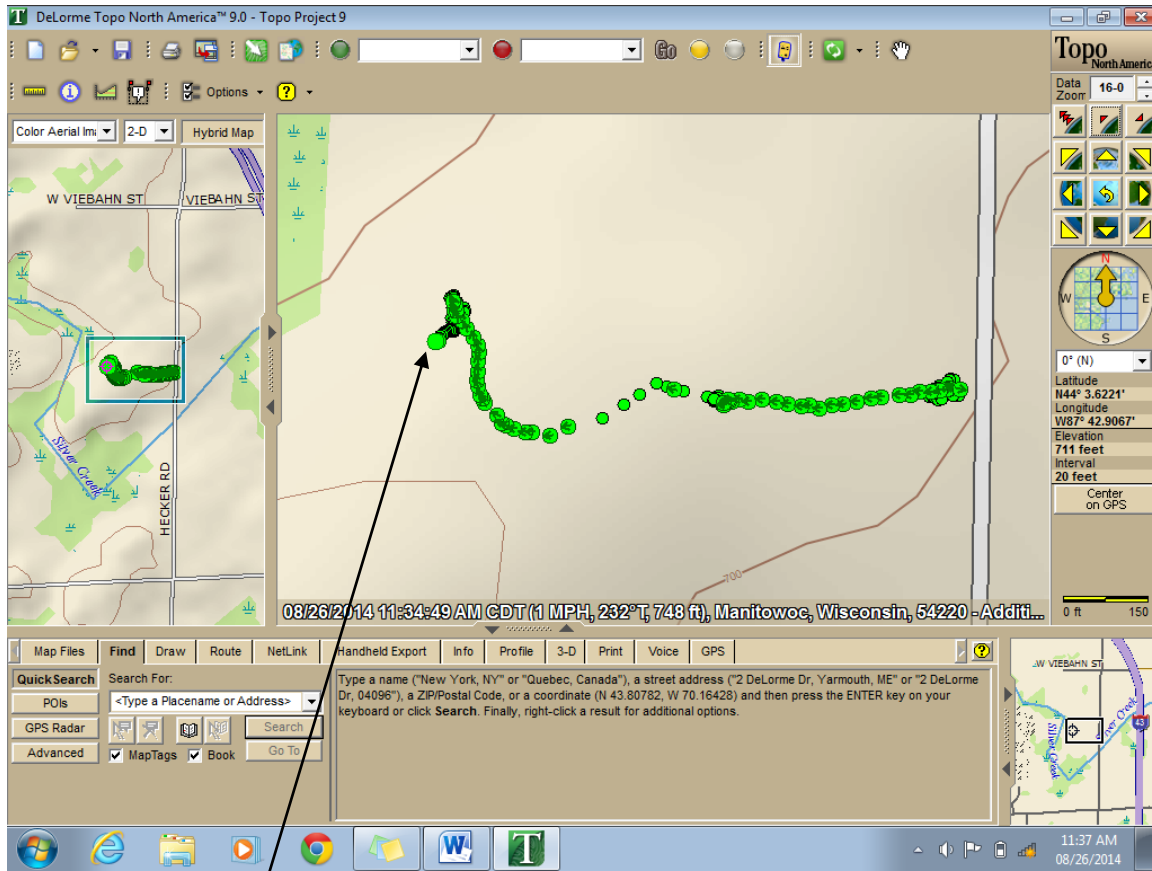
This location is where Hansen remembered the road traveling straight (west) (as in his diagram that he drew for Stroess during his December 20, 2013 interview), but the current road curved to the left (southwest) around a berm. Stroess noted there was an old blacktop-like road that was blocked by the berm which corresponded to where Hansen said he remembered the road being. The GPS reading on the right side of the screen was from this location (N44° 3.6099°, W87° 42.8180'). Stroess photographed this location with his phone (see photo #1).



Photo #1 - Left: (facing west) Road blocked off by berm, and more recent road travels to the left (southwest) around



This is the location where Hansen remembered having to stop his truck and back up. The GPS coordinates on the right side of the screen are taken at this point (N44° 3.6356', W87° 42.8999').



This is the location where Hansen indicated the back of the truck would have been when he had backed it up and dumped the chemicals. The GPS coordinates on the right side of the screen are taken at this point (N44° 3.6221', W87° 42.9067'). Stroess photographed his squad in the position directed by Hansen as to where the back of the truck driven by Hansen in the 1960s would have been located (see photo #2).



Photo #2 - Left: (facing northwest) Stroess' truck parked in the approximate location Hansen parked the tanker truck in the 1960s when dumping chemicals

At 11:45 AM Henderson exited Stroess' squad, then Stroess and Hansen left the site. Stroess dropped Hansen off at Hansen's residence at 12:01 PM.

Case Number 13-C319-016-ERS	Case Title Newton Township – Well Water Contamination
Activity On-Site Interview of Donald Vogt	Date of Activity August 26, 2014

Narrative¹

At approximately 12:55 PM on Tuesday, August 26, 2014, Special Investigative Warden Robert Stroess, in plain clothes, met with Donald Vogt at Vogt’s residence, [REDACTED], Manitowoc, WI as part of a pre-arranged meeting to transport Vogt to the Hecker Road City of Manitowoc gravel pit/former dump site. This was an agreed upon investigative strategy decided by Stroess, other DNR staff, City of Manitowoc staff, and City of Manitowoc consultant David Henderson during a February 4, 2014 conference call. The purpose of Vogt’s on-site interview was to see if Vogt could recall specific locations at the site as he had described during a December 23, 2013 interview regarding his dumping of chemicals at the site during the 1960s.

Stroess recognized Vogt from his previous interview and therefore recorded his identification from his earlier interview statement as follows:

Donald L. Vogt
Male
D.O.B. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Manitowoc, WI 54220
[REDACTED]

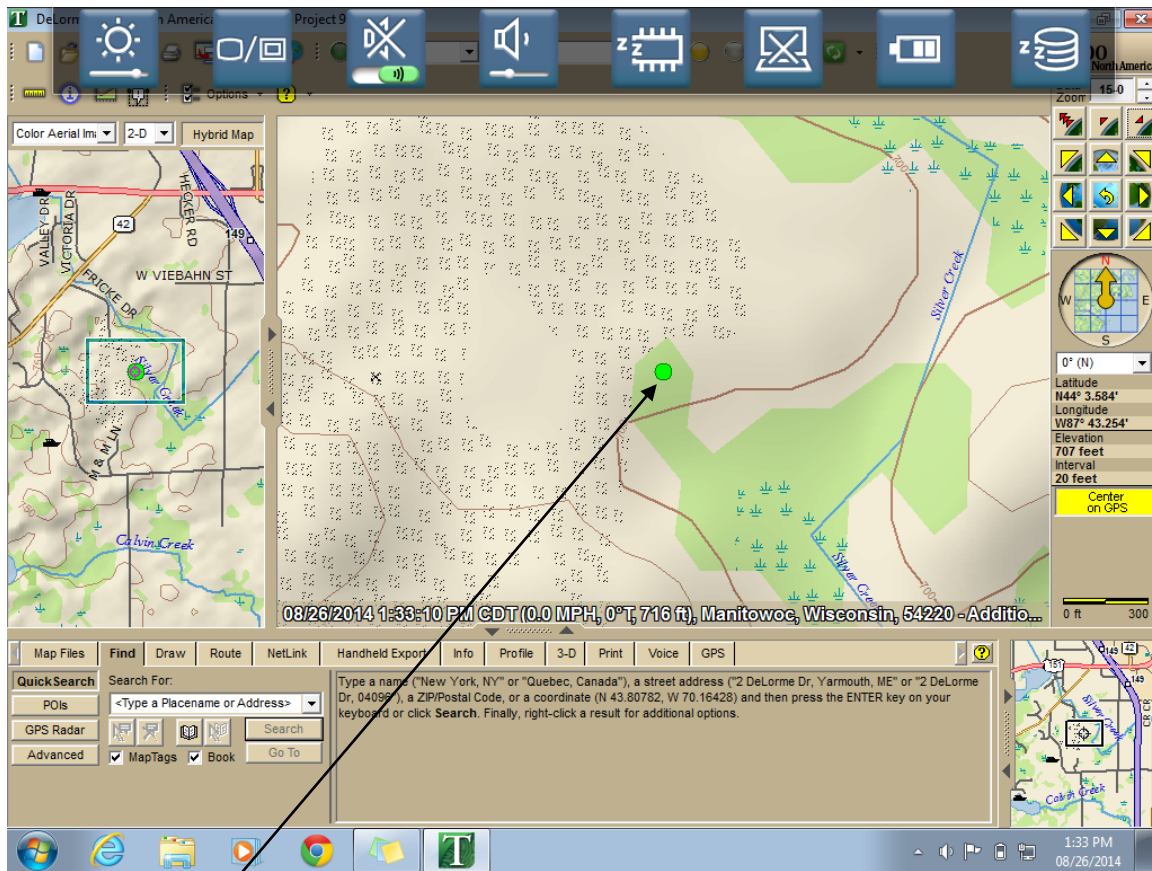
Stroess and Vogt traveled in Stroess’ squad and arrived at the Hecker Road site at 1:03 PM. They were met by a person verbally identified as David “Dave” Henderson from AECOM, the company hired by the City of Manitowoc as a consultant for the site. Stroess had earlier confirmed with Dan Koski of the City of Manitowoc that Henderson would be meeting Stroess on site to shadow the interview. Henderson got into Stroess’ squad.

Stroess asked Vogt to recall where he had entered the property and what he remembered about specific locations on the property. Vogt directed Stroess to drive to various locations on the site. Stroess used the program Delorme Topo North America 9.0 to determine GPS locations as pointed out by Vogt.

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Warden Reporting Robert Stroess	Date of Report August 27, 2014	Exhibit Reference
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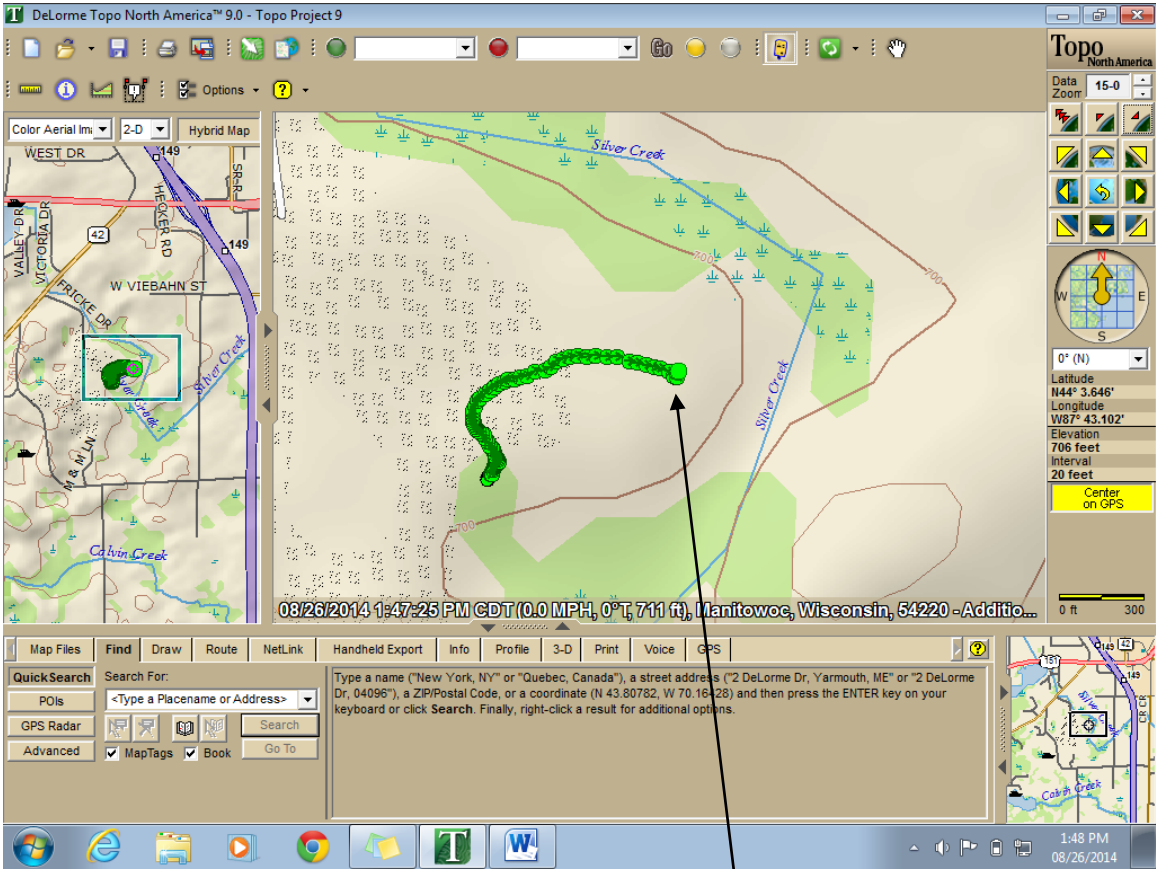
This is the location Vogt estimated his vehicle was when he was backing his truck up to the pit to dump chemicals in the 1960s. Vogt said the pit was clay-lined, was only about five feet deep, and had a clay ramp that led into the pit which allowed the Benzene to drain down into the pit. At the time of Stroess, Vogt, and Henderson being there, the road stopped adjacent to where Vogt remembered backing his truck up to, but Vogt said he remembered the road continuing beyond the pit. Later, at the end of the interview, Henderson explained to Stroess that the road had in fact previously continued on and that Vogt's estimation of the pit location was approximately 30 to 40 yards off from the actual location of a known pit. The GPS reading on the right side of the screen was from this location (N44° 3.584', W87° 43.254'). Stroess noted numerous monitoring wells in the immediate vicinity of this location. Stroess parked his squad where Vogt indicated he had parked his truck up against the pit in the 1960s, then Stroess took photos of the location using his phone (see photos #1 and #2).



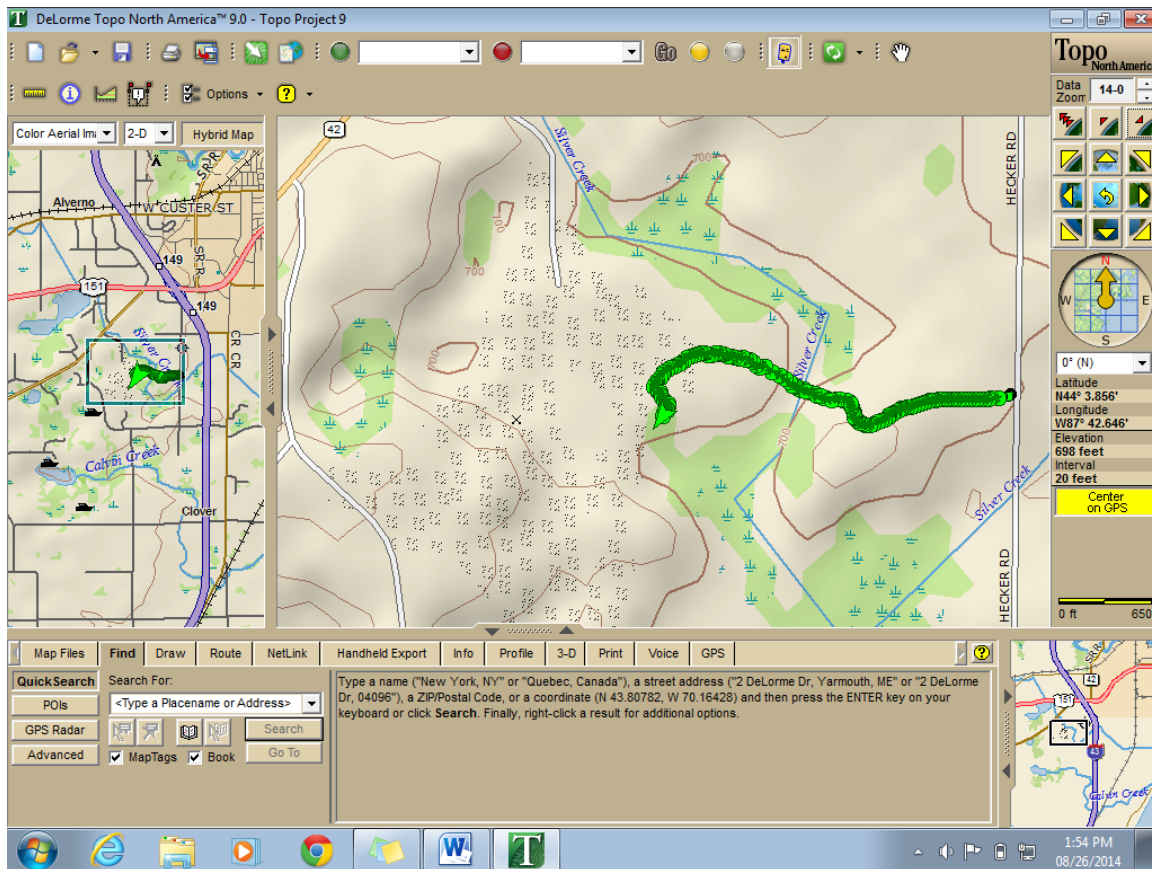
Photo #1 – Left: (facing south)
Stroess' squad parked in the approximate location of Vogt parked his truck in the 1960s when dumping chemicals into a pit



Photo #2 – Left: (facing southwest) Stroess' squad parked in the approximate location of Vogt parked his truck in the 1960s when dumping chemicals into a pit; Fricke pit in background



Vogt said the animal kennels were approximately in this location in the 1960s. The GPS reading on the right side of the screen was from this location (N44° 3.646', W87° 43.102').



After completing the interview, Stroess explained he wanted to go back to the entrance to the site and document the route Vogt would have used to get to the dump site/pit (as close as possible due to road changes within the overall site). Vogt directed Stroess' driving of the route (see GPS log route above). While driving the route, Vogt said he remembered the road going straight before going down a hill and to the right. This matched to Stroess' observations earlier in the day during the interview with Robert Hansen in which Stroess saw the remnants of a blacktop-like road that had been blocked off by a berm and the new road curved to the southwest around the berm before meeting back up with the old road. During the driving of the route with Vogt, Stroess then noticed that the old blacktop-like road also existed on the west side of the berm in a nearly direct line with the old blacktop-like road on the east side of the berm.

At 1:57 PM Henderson exited Stroess' squad, then Stroess and Vogt left the site. Stroess dropped Vogt off at Vogt's residence at 2:07 PM.