



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, CHARLESTON DISTRICT
1949 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD, ROOM 140
CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA 29526

CESAC-RDE

December 17, 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime
Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322
(2023),¹ SAC-2024-0842, (MFR# 1 of 1)²

BACKGROUND. An Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) is a Corps document stating the presence or absence of waters of the United States on a parcel or a written statement and map identifying the limits of waters of the United States on a parcel. AJDs are clearly designated appealable actions and will include a basis of JD with the document.³ AJDs are case-specific and are typically made in response to a request. AJDs are valid for a period of five years unless new information warrants revision of the determination before the expiration date or a District Engineer has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.⁴ For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),⁵ the Clean Water Act (CWA) implementing regulations published by the Department of the Army in 1986 and amended in 1993 (references 2.a. and 2.b. respectively), the 2008 *Rapanos-Carabell* guidance (reference 2.c.), and other applicable guidance, relevant case law and longstanding practice, (collectively the pre-2015 regulatory regime), and the *Sackett* decision (reference 2.d.) in evaluating jurisdiction.

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. The features addressed in this AJD were evaluated consistent with the definition of "waters of the United States" found in the pre-2015 regulatory regime and consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett*. This AJD did not rely on the 2023 "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States,'" as

¹ While the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett* had no effect on some categories of waters covered under the CWA, and no effect on any waters covered under RHA, all categories are included in this Memorandum for Record for efficiency.

² When documenting aquatic resources within the review area that are jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act (CWA), use an additional MFR and group the aquatic resources on each MFR based on the TNW, interstate water, or territorial seas that they are connected to. Be sure to provide an identifier to indicate when there are multiple MFRs associated with a single AJD request (i.e., number them 1, 2, 3, etc.).

³ 33 CFR 331.2.

⁴ Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

⁵ USACE has authority under both Section 9 and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 but for convenience, in this MFR, jurisdiction under RHA will be referred to as Section 10.

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amended on 8 September 2023 (Amended 2023 Rule) because, as of the date of this decision, the Amended 2023 Rule is not applicable in this state due to litigation.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

- a. Provide a list of each individual feature within the review area and the jurisdictional status of each one (i.e., identify whether each feature is/is not a water of the United States and/or a navigable water of the United States).

Name of Aquatic Resource	Acres (AC.)/Linear Feet (L.F.)	Waters of the U.S. (JD or Non-JD)	Section 404/Section 10
NJW-Ditch 1	202.3 L.F.	Non-JD	N/A
NJW-Pond 1	0.11 AC.	Non-JD	N/A
NJW-Ditch 2	394 L.F.	Non-JD	N/A
NJW-Pond 2	0.16 AC.	Non-JD	N/A
NJW-Ditch 3	950.4 L.F.	Non-JD	N/A
NJW-Pond 3	0.30 AC.	Non-JD	N/A
NJW-Pond 4	0.10 AC.	Non-JD	N/A
NJW-PL Ditch	1,638.1 L.F.	Non-JD	N/A

2. REFERENCES.

- a. Final Rule for Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers, 51 FR 41206 (November 13, 1986).
- b. Clean Water Act Regulatory Programs, 58 FR 45008 (August 25, 1993).
- c. U.S. EPA & U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Clean Water Act Jurisdiction Following the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision in *Rapanos v. United States & Carabell v. United States* (December 2, 2008)
- d. *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S. ___, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)

3. REVIEW AREA.

- a. Project Area Size: 49-acres
- b. Center Coordinates Review Area: 33.9322°N, -79.1583°W
- c. Nearest City: Aynor
- d. County: Horry
- e. State: South Carolina

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The review area encompasses the entirety of PIN 249-00-00-0030 and large portions of adjacent tracts (PINs 249-00-00-0029 and 249-00-00-0028) to the west. A series of upland excavated ditches and ponds are onsite with each ditch terminating at the accompanying pond. The ponds and accompanying ditches are listed in series within Table 1(a) above. Pond 4 is separated from adjacent pond 2 by a small earthen dike. An excavated ditch parallels the property line dividing PIN 249-00-00-0030 from 249-00-00-0029. The review area is comprised almost entirely agricultural and pastoral lands with partially cleared woodlands existing along the eastern boundary of PIN 249-00-00-0030. The site is devoid of hydric soils with agent submitted data corroborating soil types deemed upland in adjacent SAC-2019-01355, continuing onto the current area of review.

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. N/A
5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS: N/A
6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁶: Describe aquatic resources or other features within the review area determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Include the size of each aquatic resource or other feature within the review area and how it was determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10.⁷ N/A
7. SECTION 404 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS: Describe the aquatic resources within the review area that were found to meet the definition of waters of the United States in accordance with the pre-2015 regulatory regime and consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett*. List each aquatic resource separately, by name, consistent with the naming convention used in section 1, above. Include a rationale for each aquatic resource, supporting that the aquatic resource meets the relevant category of "waters of the United States" in the pre-2015 regulatory regime. The rationale should also include a written description of, or reference to a map in the administrative record that shows, the lateral limits of jurisdiction for each aquatic

⁶ 33 CFR 329.9(a) A waterbody which was navigable in its natural or improved state, or which was susceptible of reasonable improvement (as discussed in § 329.8(b) of this part) retains its character as "navigable in law" even though it is not presently used for commerce, or is presently incapable of such use because of changed conditions or the presence of obstructions.

⁷ This MFR is not to be used to make a report of findings to support a determination that the water is a navigable water of the United States. The district must follow the procedures outlined in 33 CFR part 329.14 to make a determination that water is a navigable water of the United States subject to Section 10 of the RHA.

resource, including how that limit was determined, and incorporate relevant references used. Include the size of each aquatic resource in acres or linear feet and attach and reference related figures as needed.

- a. TNWs (a)(1): N/A
- b. Interstate Waters (a)(2): N/A
- c. Other Waters (a)(3): N/A
- d. Impoundments (a)(4): N/A
- e. Tributaries (a)(5): N/A
- f. The territorial seas (a)(6): N/A
- g. Adjacent wetlands (a)(7): N/A

8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

- a. Describe aquatic resources and other features within the review area identified as “generally non-jurisdictional” in the preamble to the 1986 regulations (referred to as “preamble waters”).⁸ Include size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to be non-jurisdictional under the CWA as a preamble water.
 - a. A series of four (4) upland excavated ornamental/stormwater ponds totaling 0.67 surface acres and depicted as *Non-Jurisdictional Feature Pond* on the associated map. These ponds are preamble waters (51 FR 41217) Reference page 16 of 59:
https://archives.federalregister.gov/issue_slice/1986/11/13/41202-41260.pdf. Preamble waters (51 FR 41217), in part, are: Artificial reflecting or swimming pools or other small ornamental bodies of water created by excavating and/or diking dry land to retain water for primarily aesthetic reasons are Preamble waters (51 FR 41217).
- b. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area identified as “generally not jurisdictional” in the *Rapanos* guidance. Include size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to

⁸ 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

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be non-jurisdictional under the CWA based on the criteria listed in the guidance.
N/A

- a. The review area contains four upland excavated ditches totaling 3,184.8 linear feet. Three of these ditches drain adjacent uplands directly into upland excavated ponds and the remaining ditch is excavated along the western boundary of PIN 279-00-00-0030. These features are determined to have been excavated wholly in uplands and draining only uplands, not carrying a relatively permanent flow of water.
 - c. Describe aquatic resources and features identified within the review area as waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirements of CWA. Include the size of the waste treatment system within the review area and describe how it was determined to be a waste treatment system. N/A
 - d. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area determined to be prior converted cropland in accordance with the 1993 regulations (reference 2.b.). Include the size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to be prior converted cropland. N/A
 - e. Describe aquatic resources (i.e. lakes and ponds) within the review area, which do not have a nexus to interstate or foreign commerce, and prior to the January 2001 Supreme Court decision in “*SWANCC*,” would have been jurisdictional based solely on the “Migratory Bird Rule.” Include the size of the aquatic resource or feature, and how it was determined to be an “isolated water” in accordance with *SWANCC*. N/A
 - f. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area that were determined to be non-jurisdictional because they do not meet one or more categories of waters of the United States under the pre-2015 regulatory regime consistent with the Supreme Court’s decision in *Sackett* (e.g., tributaries that are non-relatively permanent waters; non-tidal wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water). N/A
9. DATA SOURCES. List sources of data/information used in making determination. Include titles and dates of sources used and ensure that information referenced is available in the administrative record.
- a. AJD Submittal, or on behalf of the requestor: Wetland Determination package including upland datasheets and associated maps provided by The Brigman Co. in the submittal dated July 17, 2024.

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- b. AJD Submittal for SAC-2019-01355: Wetland Determination package including datasheets and associated maps provided by S&ME in the submittal dated August 8, 2024.
- c. South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office: Statewide Aerial Imagery 2023 (Map Service)
- d. Lidar: Office for Coastal Management, 2024: 2014 Lidar DEM; Horry County SC, <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/inport/item/57194>.
- e. USDA NRCS Soil Survey: Duplin loamy fine sand, Goldsboro loamy fine sand, Kenansville fine sand, Nansemond loamy fine sand, Suffolk loamy fine sand. SSURGO database. Site is mapped majority Kenansville fine sand; no hydric soils present on site.
- f. National Wetland Inventory (NWI): NWI
<https://fwspublicservices.wim.usgs.gov/wetlandsmapservice/rest/services/Wetlands/MapServer/0>
- g. U.S. Geological Survey map(s): 7.5 Minute Index/ Horry / 1:240000; USGS topographic survey information depicts the area within the project boundary as developed.

10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. N/A

11. NOTE: The structure and format of this MFR were developed in coordination with the EPA and Department of the Army. The MFR's structure and format may be subject to future modification or may be rescinded as needed to implement additional guidance from the agencies; however, the approved jurisdictional determination described herein is a final agency action.



Wetland Delineation/Determination

R bon Ro 3 Tr 3

Horry County, South Carolina 3
Tax Map Number: 279-00-00-00 3 and 3
Portions of 0029 and 0028 3

Area Summary: 3

Jurisdictional Wetlands 3	0.00 3
Non-Jurisdictional Wetlands 3	0.00 3
Non-Jurisdictional Pond 3	0.67 3
Uplands 3	47. 3
Total 3	48.00 3

Notes 3

1. Potential wetland/non-wetland areas depicted here on have not 3
been verified by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Areas depicted 3
as wetlands were identified using the 1987 Wetland Delineation 3
Manual in conjunction with the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain 3
Region Supplement. Prior to any land disturbing activities, a final 3
jurisdictional determination should be obtained from the US Army 3
Corps of Engineers. 3

2. Boundary information taken from Horry County GIS/Tax Parcel 3
information. 3

. Onsite inspection was conducted on 7-1-24. 3

Legend 3

Line Legend 3

Boundary 3
Adjacent Boundary 3
Right of Way 3
Jurisdictional Ditch 3
Non-Jurisdictional Ditch 3
Dirt Road 3
Bulkhead 3

Hatch Legend 3

Jurisdictional Wetland 3
Non-Jurisdictional Wetland 3
Critical Area/Section 10 3

Symbol Legend 3

Data Point 3
Photo Point 3
Property Corner 3

Prepared For 3

Sam Bellock 3

Job # 3

0247 32420 3

Date 3

7-11-24 3

Graphic Scale 3

SCALE IN FEET
200' 0 200'



TBC
THE BRIGMAN CO.

P.O. Box 1532 - Conway, SC 29528 - p(843) 248-9388 f(843) 248-9596

FD	Lat	Long
0	33.933734	-79.15643
1	33.933794	-79.15626
2	33.932734	-79.15695
3	33.932621	-79.15644
4	33.931662	-79.16154
5	33.929409	-79.15689
6	33.930993	-79.15426
7	33.931729	-79.15524
8	33.931446	-79.15615
9	33.932178	-79.15657
10	33.932449	-79.15562