APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

This form should be completed by following the instructions provided in Section IV of the JD Form Instructional Guidebook.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): January 22, 2018 B. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NUMBER, FILE NAME: JD Form 1 of 2; SAC-2016-01851 Turcotte, Virginia / Abbott Solar Farm C. PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION: State: South Carolina County/parish/borough: Clarendon City: Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat. 33.6791° N, Long. -80.2406 ° W. Universal Transverse Mercator: Name of nearest waterbody: Hog Branch Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) Into which the aquatic resource flows: Black River Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): 03040205-04 Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are available upon request. Check if other sites (e.g., offsite mitigation sites, disposal sites, etc...) are associated with this action and are recorded on a different JD form. D. REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): Office (Desk) Determination. Date: March 1, 2017; January 16, 2018 Field Determination. Date(s): **SECTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS** A. RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION. There Are no "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 329) in the review area. [Required] Waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide. Waters are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce. B. CWA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION. There Are "waters of the U.S." within Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 328) in the review area. [Required] 1. Waters of the U.S. a. Indicate presence of waters of U.S. in review area (check all that apply): 1 TNWs, including territorial seas Wetlands adjacent to TNWs Relatively permanent waters² (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Impoundments of jurisdictional waters Isolated (interstate or intrastate) waters, including isolated wetlands b. Identify (estimate) size of waters of the U.S. in the review area: Non-wetland waters: **690** (**SA**) linear feet: width (ft) and/or acres. Wetlands: 2.19 acres. c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: 1987 Delineation Manual, Established by OHWM., Pick List Elevation of established OHWM (if known): 2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable): ³ [Including potentially jurisdictional features that upon assessment are NOT waters or wetlandsl Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to be not jurisdictional.

Explain:

¹ Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

² For purposes of this form, an RPW is defined as a tributary that is not a TNW and that typically flows year-round or has continuous flow at least "seasonally" (e.g., typically 3 months).

³ Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

SECTION III: CWA ANALYSIS

A. TNWs AND WETLANDS ADJACENT TO TNWs

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over TNWs and wetlands adjacent to TNWs. If the aquatic resource is a TNW, complete Section III.A.1 and Section III.D.1. only; if the aquatic resource is a wetland adjacent to a TNW, complete Sections III.A.1 and 2 and Section III.D.1.; otherwise, see Section III.B below.

1. TNW

Identify TNW: Black River.

Summarize rationale supporting determination: According to USACE Navigability Study Report No. 6, the Black River's recommended limit of navigability is located at River Mile (RM) 107.7. The project waters enter the Pocotaligo River, which flows into the Black River at RM 107.7.

2. Wetland adjacent to TNW

Summarize rationale supporting conclusion that wetland is "adjacent":

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBUTARY (THAT IS NOT A TNW) AND ITS ADJACENT WETLANDS (IF ANY):

This section summarizes information regarding characteristics of the tributary and its adjacent wetlands, if any, and it helps determine whether or not the standards for jurisdiction established under *Rapanos* have been met.

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over non-navigable tributaries of TNWs where the tributaries are "relatively permanent waters" (RPWs), i.e. tributaries that typically flow year-round or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g., typically 3 months). A wetland that directly abuts an RPW is also jurisdictional. If the aquatic resource is not a TNW, but has year-round (perennial) flow, skip to Section III.D.2. If the aquatic resource is a wetland directly abutting a tributary with perennial flow, skip to Section III.D.4.

A wetland that is adjacent to but that does not directly abut an RPW requires a significant nexus evaluation. Corps districts and EPA regions will include in the record any available information that documents the existence of a significant nexus between a relatively permanent tributary that is not perennial (and its adjacent wetlands if any) and a traditional navigable water, even though a significant nexus finding is not required as a matter of law.

If the waterbody⁴ is not an RPW, or a wetland directly abutting an RPW, a JD will require additional data to determine if the waterbody has a significant nexus with a TNW. If the tributary has adjacent wetlands, the significant nexus evaluation must consider the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands. This significant nexus evaluation that combines, for analytical purposes, the tributary and all of its adjacent wetlands is used whether the review area identified in the JD request is the tributary, or its adjacent wetlands, or both. If the JD covers a tributary with adjacent wetlands, complete Section III.B.1 for the tributary, Section III.B.2 for any onsite wetlands, and Section III.B.3 for all wetlands adjacent to that tributary, both onsite and offsite. The determination whether a significant nexus exists is determined in Section III.C below.

1. Characteristics of non-TNWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNW

(i) General Area Conditions:

Watershed size: Pick List;
Drainage area: Pick List
Average annual rainfall: inches
Average annual snowfall: inches

(ii) Physical Characteristics:

| | (a) | Relationship | with | TNW |
|--|-----|--------------|------|------------|
|--|-----|--------------|------|------------|

☐ Tributary flows directly into TNW.
☐ Tributary flows through **Pick List** tributaries before entering TNW.

Project waters are Pick List aerial (straight) miles from TNW.

Project waters are **Pick List** aerial (straight) miles from RPW. Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain:

⁴ Note that the Instructional Guidebook contains additional information regarding swales, ditches, washes, and erosional features generally and in the arid West.

| | | Identify flow route to TNW ⁵ : Tributary stream order, if known: |
|-------|-----|--|
| | (b) | General Tributary Characteristics (check all that apply): Tributary is: Natural Artificial (man-made). Explain: Manipulated (man-altered). Explain: |
| | | Tributary properties with respect to top of bank (estimate): Average width: feet Average depth: feet Average side slopes: Pick List. |
| | | Primary tributary substrate composition (check all that apply): Silts Sands Concrete Cobbles Gravel Muck Bedrock Vegetation. Type/% cover: Other. Explain: |
| | | Tributary condition/stability [e.g., highly eroding, sloughing banks]. Explain: Presence of run/riffle/pool complexes. Explain: Tributary geometry: Pick List. Tributary gradient (approximate average slope): % |
| | (c) | Flow: Tributary provides for: Pick List Estimate average number of flow events in review area/year: Pick List Describe flow regime: Other information on duration and volume: |
| | | Surface flow is: Pick List. Characteristics: Subsurface flow: Pick List. Explain findings: Dye (or other) test performed: |
| | | Tributary has (check all that apply): Bed and banks OHWM ⁶ (check all indicators that apply): clear, natural line impressed on the bank changes in the character of soil shelving vegetation matted down, bent, or absent leaf litter disturbed or washed away sediment deposition water staining other (list): Discontinuous OHWM. ⁷ Explain: |
| | | If factors other than the OHWM were used to determine lateral extent of CWA jurisdiction (check all that apply): High Tide Line indicated by: |
| (iii) | Cha | emical Characteristics: racterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed characteristics, etc.). Explain: tify specific pollutants, if known: |

⁵ Flow route can be described by identifying, e.g., tributary a, which flows through the review area, to flow into tributary b, which then flows into TNW. ⁶A natural or man-made discontinuity in the OHWM does not necessarily sever jurisdiction (e.g., where the stream temporarily flows underground, or where the OHWM has been removed by development or agricultural practices). Where there is a break in the OHWM that is unrelated to the waterbody's flow regime (e.g., flow over a rock outcrop or through a culvert), the agencies will look for indicators of flow above and below the break. ⁷Ibid.

| | (iv) | | gical Characteristics. Channel supports (check all that apply): Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, average width): Wetland fringe. Characteristics: Habitat for: Federally Listed species. Explain findings: Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: |
|----|-------|-------|--|
| 2. | Cha | racte | ristics of wetlands adjacent to non-TNW that flow directly or indirectly into TNW |
| | (i) | (a) | ical Characteristics: General Wetland Characteristics: Properties: Wetland size: acres Wetland type. Explain: Wetland quality. Explain: Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: |
| | | | General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW: Flow is: Pick List. Explain: |
| | | | Surface flow is: Pick List Characteristics: . |
| | | i | Subsurface flow: Pick List . Explain findings: |
| | | (c) | Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW: Directly abutting Not directly abutting Discrete wetland hydrologic connection. Explain: Ecological connection. Explain: Separated by berm/barrier. Explain: |
| | | | Proximity (Relationship) to TNW Project wetlands are Pick List river miles from TNW. Project waters are Pick List aerial (straight) miles from TNW. Flow is from: Pick List. Estimate approximate location of wetland as within the Pick List floodplain. |
| | (ii) | Chara | mical Characteristics: acterize wetland system (e.g., water color is clear, brown, oil film on surface; water quality; general watershed characteristics; etc.). Explain: ify specific pollutants, if known: |
| | (iii) | | ogical Characteristics. Wetland supports (check all that apply): Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, average width): Vegetation type/percent cover. Explain: Habitat for: Federally Listed species. Explain findings: Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: |
| 3. | Cha | All w | ristics of all wetlands adjacent to the tributary (if any) vetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis: Pick List oximately () acres in total are being considered in the cumulative analysis. |

For each wetland, specify the following:



Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed:

C. SIGNIFICANT NEXUS DETERMINATION

A significant nexus analysis will assess the flow characteristics and functions of the tributary itself and the functions performed by any wetlands adjacent to the tributary to determine if they significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of a TNW. For each of the following situations, a significant nexus exists if the tributary, in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, has more than a speculative or insubstantial effect on the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of a TNW. Considerations when evaluating significant nexus include, but are not limited to the volume, duration, and frequency of the flow of water in the tributary and its proximity to a TNW, and the functions performed by the tributary and all its adjacent wetlands. It is not appropriate to determine significant nexus based solely on any specific threshold of distance (e.g. between a tributary and its adjacent wetland or between a tributary and the TNW). Similarly, the fact an adjacent wetland lies within or outside of a floodplain is not solely determinative of significant nexus.

Draw connections between the features documented and the effects on the TNW, as identified in the *Rapanos* Guidance and discussed in the Instructional Guidebook. Factors to consider include, for example:

- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to carry pollutants or flood waters to TNWs, or to reduce the amount of pollutants or flood waters reaching a TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), provide habitat and lifecycle support functions for fish and other species, such as feeding, nesting, spawning, or rearing young for species that are present in the TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to transfer nutrients and organic carbon that support downstream foodwebs?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have other relationships to the physical, chemical, or biological integrity of the TNW?

Note: the above list of considerations is not inclusive and other functions observed or known to occur should be documented below:

- 1. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW that has no adjacent wetlands and flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary itself, then go to Section III.D:
- 2. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW and its adjacent wetlands, where the non-RPW flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:
- 3. Significant nexus findings for wetlands adjacent to an RPW but that do not directly abut the RPW. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:

 $Documentation\ for\ the\ Record\ only:\ Significant\ nexus\ findings\ for\ seasonal\ RPWs\ and/or\ wetlands\ abutting\ seasonal\ RPWs:$

| D. | DETERMINATIONS OF JURISDICTIONAL FINDINGS. THE SUBJECT WATERS/WETLANDS ARE (CHECK ALL |
|----|---|
| | THAT APPLY): |

| 1. | TNWs and Adjacent Wetlands. ☐ TNWs: linear feet ☐ Wetlands adjacent to TNWs: | 1.1 | ly and provide size estimates in review area: acres. | |
|----|---|-------------------|--|--|
| 2. | RPWs that flow directly or indi- | rectly into TNWs. | | |

Tributaries of TNWs where tributaries typically flow year-round are jurisdictional. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial: The tributary located on the northeastern boundary of the project area was determined to have

| | as Paxville, a hydric soil. Hog Branch flows east into Ox Swamp, which continues northeast into the Pocotaligo River, a PRPW. The Pocotaligo River flows southeast into the Black River, a TNW. |
|----|---|
| | Tributaries of TNW where tributaries have continuous flow "seasonally" (e.g., typically three months each year) are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.B. Provide rationale indicating that tributary flows seasonally: |
| | Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply): Tributary waters: 690 linear feet 10 width (ft). Other non-wetland waters: acres. Identify type(s) of waters: . |
| 3. | Non-RPWs ⁸ that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Waterbody that is not a TNW or an RPW, but flows directly or indirectly into a TNW, and it has a significant nexus with a TNW is jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C. |
| | Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters within the review area (check all that apply): Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft). Other non-wetland waters: acres. Identify type(s) of waters: . |
| 4. | Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Wetlands directly abut RPW and thus are jurisdictional as adjacent wetlands. Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow year-round. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW: The on-site wetlands were determined to be a portion of a larger wetland system that directly abuts Hog Branch. The aerials and topographic map depict this wetland as directly abutting the onsite perennial RPW named Hog Branch. The soil survey maps this on-site wetland as Paxville, a hydric soil, and the NWIs map this wetland as PFO1B. |
| | Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow "seasonally." Provide data indicating that tributary is seasonal in Section III.B and rationale in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW: |
| | Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: 2.19 acres. |
| 5. | Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Wetlands that do not directly abut an RPW, but when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisidictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C. |
| | Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres. |
| 6. | Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Wetlands adjacent to such waters, and have when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C. |
| | Provide estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres. |
| 7. | Impoundments of jurisdictional waters.9 As a general rule, the impoundment of a jurisdictional tributary remains jurisdictional. Demonstrate that impoundment was created from "waters of the U.S.," or Demonstrate that water meets the criteria for one of the categories presented above (1-6), or Demonstrate that water is isolated with a nexus to commerce (see E below). Explain: |
| | |

perennial flow based on a review of the aerials, topographic map, soil survey, and NWIs. The aerials and topographic map depict this tributary as a shaded linear feature and a solid blue line, respectively, named Hog Branch. The NWIs map this tributary and the abutting wetlands as palustrine forested wetland (PFO1B). The soil survey maps this area

⁸See Footnote # 3.

⁹ To complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.

| Е. | ISOLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, DEGRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY SUCH WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):10 which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes. from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce. which are or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce. Interstate isolated waters. Explain: Other factors. Explain: |
|----|---|
| | Identify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination: |
| | Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply): Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft). Other non-wetland waters: acres. Identify type(s) of waters: . Wetlands: acres. |
| F. | NON-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, INCLUDING WETLANDS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): If potential wetlands were assessed within the review area, these areas did not meet the criteria in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and/or appropriate Regional Supplements. Review area included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce. Prior to the Jan 2001 Supreme Court decision in "SWANCC," the review area would have been regulated based solely on the "Migratory Bird Rule" (MBR). Waters do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain: Other: (explain, if not covered above): . |
| | Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the sole potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR factors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated agriculture), using best professional judgment (check all that apply): Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet width (ft). Lakes/ponds: acres. Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource: Wetlands: acres. |
| | Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area that do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction (check all that apply): Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet, width (ft). Lakes/ponds: acres. Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource: . Wetlands: acres. |
| SE | CTION IV: DATA SOURCES. |
| A. | SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply - checked items shall be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below): Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant: Report and drawing by Pilot Environmental. Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant. Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report. Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report. Data sheets prepared by the Corps: Corps navigable waters' study: USACE Navigability Study Report No. 6. U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas: USGS NHD data. USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps. U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name: Manning; The topographic map depicts the majority of the site as cleared uplands. The northeastern boundary of the site is depicted as a solid blue line. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation: PG. 30; The wetlands on site are mapped Paxville, a hydric soil. The uplands on site are mapped Dothan, a non-hydric soil. National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: The wetlands on site are mapped palustrine forested (PFO1B). The uplands on site are mapped U21. |
| | |

 $^{^{10}}$ Prior to asserting or declining CWA jurisdiction based solely on this category, Corps Districts will elevate the action to Corps and EPA HQ for review consistent with the process described in the Corps/EPA $\it Memorandum~Regarding~CWA~Act~Jurisdiction~Following~Rapanos.$

| | FEMA/FIRM maps: . |
|-------------|--|
| | 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodectic Vertical Datum of 1929) |
| \boxtimes | Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date): SCDNR 2006, 99:11224:39; The aerials depict the majority of this site as an |
| agı | ricultural field. The northeastern boundary of the site is forested |
| | or \square Other (Name & Date): |
| | Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter: . |
| | Applicable/supporting case law: . |
| | Applicable/supporting scientific literature: . |
| | Other information (please specify): |
| | |

B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD: The tributary located on the northeastern boundary of the project area was determined to have perennial flow based on a review of the aerials, topographic map, soil survey, and NWIs. The aerials and topographic map depict this tributary as a shaded linear feature and a solid blue line, respectively, named Hog Branch. The NWIs map this tributary and the abutting wetlands as palustrine forested wetland (PFO1B). The soil survey maps this area as Paxville, a hydric soil. Hog Branch flows east into Ox Swamp, which continues northeast into the Pocotaligo River, a PRPW. The Pocotaligo River flows southeast into the Black River, a TNW.

The on-site wetlands were determined to be a portion of a larger wetland system that directly abuts Hog Branch. The aerials and topographic map depict this wetland as directly abutting the onsite perennial RPW named Hog Branch. The soil survey maps this on-site wetland as Paxville, a hydric soil, and the NWIs map this wetland as PFO1B.

APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

This form should be completed by following the instructions provided in Section IV of the JD Form Instructional Guidebook.

SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): January 22, 2018

| В. | DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NUMBER, FILE NAME: JD Form 2 of 2; SAC-2016-01851 Turcotte, Virginia / Abbott Solar Farm |
|-----|--|
| C. | PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION: State: South Carolina County/parish/borough: Clarendon City: Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat. 33.6791° N, Long80.2406 ° W. Universal Transverse Mercator: Name of nearest waterbody: Unnamed tributary of Hog Branch |
| | Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) into which the aquatic resource flows: Black River Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): 03040205-04 Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are available upon request. Check if other sites (e.g., offsite mitigation sites, disposal sites, etc) are associated with this action and are recorded on a different JD form. |
| D. | REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): Office (Desk) Determination. Date: March 1, 2017; January 16, 2018 Field Determination. Date(s): |
| | CTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION. |
| | Are no "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 329) in the iew area. [Required] Waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide. Waters are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce. Explain: |
| B. | CWA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION. |
| The | ere Are "waters of the U.S." within Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 328) in the review area. [Required] |
| | 1. Waters of the U.S. a. Indicate presence of waters of U.S. in review area (check all that apply): TNWs, including territorial seas Wetlands adjacent to TNWs Relatively permanent waters ² (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs |

b. Identify (estimate) size of waters of the U.S. in the review area: Non-wetland waters: 170 (JDA) linear feet: 4-6width (ft) and/or

Impoundments of jurisdictional waters

Non-wetland waters: **170 (JDA)** linear feet: **4-6**width (ft) and/or wetlands: acres.

c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: Established by OHWM., Pick List, Pick List Elevation of established OHWM (if known):

Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs

Isolated (interstate or intrastate) waters, including isolated wetlands

2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable): Including potentially jurisdictional features that upon assessment are NOT waters or wetlands

Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to be not jurisdictional. Explain: The upstream portion of the on-site seasonal RPW was assessed within the review area. This feature is not

¹ Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

² For purposes of this form, an RPW is defined as a tributary that is not a TNW and that typically flows year-round or has continuous flow at least "seasonally" (e.g., typically 3 months).

³ Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

depicted on the topographic map and was man-made to flow through two agricultural fields. Because this man-made feature was excavated out of uplands and drains only uplands, it was determined to be non-jurisdictional.

SECTION III: CWA ANALYSIS

A. TNWs AND WETLANDS ADJACENT TO TNWs

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over TNWs and wetlands adjacent to TNWs. If the aquatic resource is a TNW, complete Section III.A.1 and Section III.D.1. only; if the aquatic resource is a wetland adjacent to a TNW, complete Sections III.A.1 and 2 and Section III.D.1.; otherwise, see Section III.B below.

1 TNW

Identify TNW: Black River.

Summarize rationale supporting determination: According to USACE Navigability Study Report No. 6, the Black River's recommended limit of navigability is located at River Mile (RM) 107.7. The project waters enter the Pocotaligo River, which flows into the Black River at RM 107.7.

2. Wetland adjacent to TNW

Summarize rationale supporting conclusion that wetland is "adjacent":

B. CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBUTARY (THAT IS NOT A TNW) AND ITS ADJACENT WETLANDS (IF ANY):

This section summarizes information regarding characteristics of the tributary and its adjacent wetlands, if any, and it helps determine whether or not the standards for jurisdiction established under *Rapanos* have been met.

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over non-navigable tributaries of TNWs where the tributaries are "relatively permanent waters" (RPWs), i.e. tributaries that typically flow year-round or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g., typically 3 months). A wetland that directly abuts an RPW is also jurisdictional. If the aquatic resource is not a TNW, but has year-round (perennial) flow, skip to Section III.D.2. If the aquatic resource is a wetland directly abutting a tributary with perennial flow, skip to Section III.D.4.

A wetland that is adjacent to but that does not directly abut an RPW requires a significant nexus evaluation. Corps districts and EPA regions will include in the record any available information that documents the existence of a significant nexus between a relatively permanent tributary that is not perennial (and its adjacent wetlands if any) and a traditional navigable water, even though a significant nexus finding is not required as a matter of law.

If the waterbody⁴ is not an RPW, or a wetland directly abutting an RPW, a JD will require additional data to determine if the waterbody has a significant nexus with a TNW. If the tributary has adjacent wetlands, the significant nexus evaluation must consider the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands. This significant nexus evaluation that combines, for analytical purposes, the tributary and all of its adjacent wetlands is used whether the review area identified in the JD request is the tributary, or its adjacent wetlands, or both. If the JD covers a tributary with adjacent wetlands, complete Section III.B.1 for the tributary, Section III.B.2 for any onsite wetlands, and Section III.B.3 for all wetlands adjacent to that tributary, both onsite and offsite. The determination whether a significant nexus exists is determined in Section III.C below.

1. Characteristics of non-TNWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNW

(i) General Area Conditions:

Watershed size: 171,780 acres; HUC 03040205-04 Drainage area: 10 acres

Average annual rainfall: **49.01** inches Average annual snowfall: **1.8** inches

(ii) Physical Characteristics:

(a) Relationship with TNW:

☐ Tributary flows directly into TNW.

Tributary flows through 3 tributaries before entering TNW.

Project waters are **15-20** river miles from TNW. Project waters are **1** (or less) river miles from RPW.

Project waters are 10-15 aerial (straight) miles from TNW.

Project waters are 1 (or less) aerial (straight) miles from RPW.

Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: N/A.

⁴ Note that the Instructional Guidebook contains additional information regarding swales, ditches, washes, and erosional features generally and in the arid West.

| | TNW. Tributary stream order, if known: The on-site sRPW is a 1st order stream . |
|----------------|--|
| (b) | General Tributary Characteristics (check all that apply): Tributary is: Natural Artificial (man-made). Explain: |
| | Manipulated (man-altered). Explain: The on-site seasonal RPW is the downstream portion of ctional ditch that was excavated out of uplands. The jurisdictional portion of the tributary has been straightened cough wetlands. |
| | Tributary properties with respect to top of bank (estimate): Average width: 4-6 feet Average depth: 2-4 feet Average side slopes: Vertical (1:1 or less). |
| | Primary tributary substrate composition (check all that apply): Silts Sands Concrete Cobbles Gravel Muck Bedrock Vegetation. Type/% cover: Other. Explain: |
| erosion or slo | Tributary condition/stability [e.g., highly eroding, sloughing banks]. Explain: The tributary is relatively stable with no ughing banks present. Presence of run/riffle/pool complexes. Explain: N/A. Tributary geometry: Relatively straight. Tributary gradient (approximate average slope): 0-1 % |
| (c) | Flow: Tributary provides for: Seasonal flow Estimate average number of flow events in review area/year: 11-20 Describe flow regime: The tributary receives overland sheetflow from the abutting wetlands. Other information on duration and volume: The tributary also receives flow from the upstream non-jurisdictional |
| | Surface flow is: Discrete and confined. Characteristics: |
| | Subsurface flow: Unknown . Explain findings: Dye (or other) test performed: |
| | Tributary has (check all that apply): Bed and banks OHWM ⁶ (check all indicators that apply): clear, natural line impressed on the bank changes in the character of soil shelving vegetation matted down, bent, or absent leaf litter disturbed or washed away sediment deposition sediment deposition water staining other (list): Discontinuous OHWM. ⁷ Explain: |
| | If factors other than the OHWM were used to determine lateral extent of CWA jurisdiction (check all that apply): High Tide Line indicated by: |
| | |

Identify flow route to TNW⁵: The on site sRPW flows into Hog Branch, a pRPW, which flows into Ox Swamp, a pRPW. Ox Swamp flows into the Pocotaligo River, a pRPW. The Pocotaligo River flows into the Black River, a

⁷Ibid.

⁵ Flow route can be described by identifying, e.g., tributary a, which flows through the review area, to flow into tributary b, which then flows into TNW.

⁶A natural or man-made discontinuity in the OHWM does not necessarily sever jurisdiction (e.g., where the stream temporarily flows underground, or where the OHWM has been removed by development or agricultural practices). Where there is a break in the OHWM that is unrelated to the waterbody's flow regime (e.g., flow over a rock outcrop or through a culvert), the agencies will look for indicators of flow above and below the break.

| monitor excursio bacteria | Ider ing sons. I | emical Characteristics: Tracterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed characteristics, etc.). Explain: This tributary is located within the Pocotaligo River Watershed (HUC 03040205-04). This watershed is comprised of 37.4% agricultural land, 32.4% forested wetland, 19.6% forested land, 8.7% urban land, 1.5% nonforested wetland, 0.3% water, and 0.1% barren land https://doi.org/10.1006/10. |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--|
| | \boxtimes | Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, average width): Palustrine; 50 feet. Wetland fringe. Characteristics: The entire length of this 1 st order stream intersects a wetland system. Habitat for: Federally Listed species. Explain findings: |
| wildlife as we | ell as | ☐ Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: ☐ Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: ☐ Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: This seasonal RPW provides an important habitat and corridor for a connection to the downstream TNW for aquatic species. |
| 2. Cha | aract | eristics of wetlands adjacent to non-TNW that flow directly or indirectly into TNW |
| (i) | | Sical Characteristics: General Wetland Characteristics: Properties: Wetland size: acres Wetland type. Explain: Wetland quality. Explain: Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: |
| | (b) | General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW: Flow is: Pick List. Explain: Surface flow is: Pick List Characteristics: Subsurface flow: Pick List. Explain findings: |
| | | Dye (or other) test performed: |
| | (c) | Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW: ☐ Directly abutting ☐ Not directly abutting ☐ Discrete wetland hydrologic connection. Explain: ☐ Ecological connection. Explain: ☐ Separated by berm/barrier. Explain: |
| | (d) | Proximity (Relationship) to TNW Project wetlands are Pick List river miles from TNW. Project waters are Pick List aerial (straight) miles from TNW. Flow is from: Pick List. Estimate approximate location of wetland as within the Pick List floodplain. |
| (ii) | Cha | emical Characteristics: cracterize wetland system (e.g., water color is clear, brown, oil film on surface; water quality; general watershed characteristics; etc.). Explain: ntify specific pollutants, if known: |
| (iii | | logical Characteristics. Wetland supports (check all that apply): Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, average width): Vegetation type/percent cover. Explain: Habitat for: Federally Listed species. Explain findings: Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: |

other (list):

3. Characteristics of all wetlands adjacent to the tributary (if any)

All wetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis: **Pick List**Approximately () acres in total are being considered in the cumulative analysis.

For each wetland, specify the following:



Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed:

C. SIGNIFICANT NEXUS DETERMINATION

A significant nexus analysis will assess the flow characteristics and functions of the tributary itself and the functions performed by any wetlands adjacent to the tributary to determine if they significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of a TNW. For each of the following situations, a significant nexus exists if the tributary, in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, has more than a speculative or insubstantial effect on the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of a TNW. Considerations when evaluating significant nexus include, but are not limited to the volume, duration, and frequency of the flow of water in the tributary and its proximity to a TNW, and the functions performed by the tributary and all its adjacent wetlands. It is not appropriate to determine significant nexus based solely on any specific threshold of distance (e.g. between a tributary and its adjacent wetland or between a tributary and the TNW). Similarly, the fact an adjacent wetland lies within or outside of a floodplain is not solely determinative of significant nexus.

Draw connections between the features documented and the effects on the TNW, as identified in the *Rapanos* Guidance and discussed in the Instructional Guidebook. Factors to consider include, for example:

- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to carry pollutants or flood waters to TNWs, or to reduce the amount of pollutants or flood waters reaching a TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), provide habitat and lifecycle support functions for fish and other species, such as feeding, nesting, spawning, or rearing young for species that are present in the TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to transfer nutrients and organic carbon that support downstream foodwebs?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have other relationships to the physical, chemical, or biological integrity of the TNW?

Note: the above list of considerations is not inclusive and other functions observed or known to occur should be documented below:

- 1. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW that has no adjacent wetlands and flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary itself, then go to Section III.D:
- 2. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW and its adjacent wetlands, where the non-RPW flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:
- 3. Significant nexus findings for wetlands adjacent to an RPW but that do not directly abut the RPW. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:

Documentation for the Record only: Significant nexus findings for seasonal RPWs and/or wetlands abutting seasonal RPWs: The 1st order seasonal RPW is contributing vital biological, chemical, and physical functions to the downstream TNW. This RPW makes up an important ecological system with vital aquatic habitat that supports wildlife in a watershed consisting predominately of uplands. Due to the prevalence of agricultural land use in this watershed, this RPW is acting as a catch basin for the adjacent uplands by filtering sediments, herbicides, and other pollutants and by reducing the amount of flood waters reaching the downstream TNW.

D. DETERMINATIONS OF JURISDICTIONAL FINDINGS. THE SUBJECT WATERS/WETLANDS ARE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

| 1. | TNWs and Adjacent Wetlands. Check all that apply and provide size estimates in review area: TNWs: linear feet width (ft), Or, acres. Wetlands adjacent to TNWs: acres. |
|----|---|
| 2. | RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Tributaries of TNWs where tributaries typically flow year-round are jurisdictional. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial: |
| | Tributaries of TNW where tributaries have continuous flow "seasonally" (e.g., typically three months each year) are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.B. Provide rationale indicating that tributary flows seasonally: The tributary located along the northern boundary of the property was determined to have seasonal flow based on a review of the aerials, soil survey, NWIs, and information submitted by the agent. The aerials depict this tributary as a shaded linear feature. The NWIs map this tributary as forested wetland (PFO1B). The soil survey map this tributary as Paxville, a hydric soil. Information submitted by the agent determined this tributary has seasonal flow based on the presence of iron-oxidizing bacteria and a channel within bed and banks. This unnamed tributary flows into Hog Branch, which is located along the northeastern property boundary and is discussed on JD Form 1 of 2. Hog Branch flows east into Ox Swamp, which continues northeast into the Pocotaligo River, a pRPW. The Pocotaligo River flows southeast into the Black River, a TNW. |
| | Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply): Tributary waters: 170 linear feet 4-6 width (ft). Other non-wetland waters: acres. Identify type(s) of waters: . |
| 3. | Non-RPWs ⁸ that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Waterbody that is not a TNW or an RPW, but flows directly or indirectly into a TNW, and it has a significant nexus with a TNW is jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C. |
| | Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters within the review area (check all that apply): Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft). Other non-wetland waters: acres. Identify type(s) of waters: . |
| 4. | Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Wetlands directly abut RPW and thus are jurisdictional as adjacent wetlands. Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow year-round. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW: |
| | ■ Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow "seasonally." Provide data indicating that tributary is seasonal in Section III.B and rationale in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW: |
| | Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres. |
| 5. | Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Wetlands that do not directly abut an RPW, but when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisidictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C. |
| | Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres. |
| 6. | Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Wetlands adjacent to such waters, and have when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C. |
| | Provide estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres. |
| 7. | Impoundments of jurisdictional waters.9 As a general rule, the impoundment of a jurisdictional tributary remains jurisdictional. Demonstrate that impoundment was created from "waters of the U.S.," or Demonstrate that water meets the criteria for one of the categories presented above (1-6), or |

 $^{^8 \}mbox{See}$ Footnote # 3. 9 To complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.

| | Demonstrate that water is isolated with a nexus to commerce (see E below). Explain: | |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| Е. | ISOLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, DEGRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY SUCH WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): 10 which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes. from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce. which are or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce. Interstate isolated waters. Explain: Other factors. Explain: | |
| | Identify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination: | |
| | Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply): Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft). Other non-wetland waters: acres. Identify type(s) of waters: Wetlands: acres. | |
| F. | NON-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, INCLUDING WETLANDS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): If potential wetlands were assessed within the review area, these areas did not meet the criteria in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and/or appropriate Regional Supplements. Review area included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce. Prior to the Jan 2001 Supreme Court decision in "SWANCC," the review area would have been regulated based solely on the "Migratory Bird Rule" (MBR). Waters do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain: Other: (explain, if not covered above): The upstream portion of the on-site seasonal RPW is a non-jurisdictional ditch. | |
| | Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the <u>sole</u> potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR factors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated agriculture), using best professional judgment (check all that apply): Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet width (ft). Lakes/ponds: acres. Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource: Wetlands: acres. | |
| | Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area that do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction (check all that apply): Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet, width (ft). Lakes/ponds: acres. Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource: . Wetlands: acres. | |
| SECTION IV: DATA SOURCES. | | |
| A. (| SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply - checked items shall be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below): Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant: Report and drawing by Pilot Environmental. Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant. Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report. Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report. Data sheets prepared by the Corps: Corps navigable waters' study: USACE Navigability Study Report No. 6. U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas: USGS NHD data. USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps. U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name: Manning; The topographic map depicts the majority of the site as cleared uplands. The northwestern boundary of the site is depicted as forested uplands. | |

 $^{^{10}}$ Prior to asserting or declining CWA jurisdiction based solely on this category, Corps Districts will elevate the action to Corps and EPA HQ for review consistent with the process described in the Corps/EPA $\it Memorandum~Regarding~CWA~Act~Jurisdiction~Following~Rapanos.$

| \boxtimes | USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation: PG. 30; The sRPW on site is mapped Paxville, a hydri | |
|--|---|--|
| soil. | | |
| \boxtimes | National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: The sRPW on site is mapped PFO1B . | |
| | State/Local wetland inventory map(s): | |
| | FEMA/FIRM maps: . | |
| | 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodectic Vertical Datum of 1929) | |
| \boxtimes | Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date): SCDNR 2006, 99:11224:39; The aerials depict the majority of this site as an | |
| agricultural field. The northwestern boundary of the site is forested. | | |
| | or Other (Name & Date): | |
| | Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter: . | |
| | Applicable/supporting case law: . | |
| | Applicable/supporting scientific literature: . | |
| | Other information (please specify): | |
| | | |

B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD: The tributary located along the northern boundary of the property was determined to have seasonal flow based on a review of the aerials, soil survey, NWIs, and information submitted by the agent. The aerials depict this tributary as a shaded linear feature. The NWIs map this tributary as forested wetland (PFO1B). The soil survey maps this tributary as Paxville, a hydric soil. Information submitted by the agent determined this tributary has seasonal flow based on the presence of iron-oxidizing bacteria and a channel within bed and banks. This unnamed tributary flows into Hog Branch, which is located along the northeastern property boundary and is discussed on JD Form 1 of 2. Hog Branch flows east into Ox Swamp, which continues northeast into the Pocotaligo River, a pRPW. The Pocotaligo River flows southeast into the Black River, a TNW.

The upstream portion of the on-site seasonal RPW was assessed within the review area. This feature is not depicted on the topographic map and was man-made to flow through two agricultural fields. Because this man-made feature was excavated out of uplands and drains only uplands, it was determined to be non-jurisdictional.