



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, CHARLESTON DISTRICT
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, 29403

CESAC-RD

29 May 2025

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 MFR 1 of 1

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.² 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.³ For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),⁴ 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 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.

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 33 CFR 331.2.

³ Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

⁴ 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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- 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 US (WOUS)	Section 404/ Section 10
Wetland A	30.30 AC	Yes	404
Tributary A	99 L.F.	Yes	404

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: 65.36 acres
- b. Center Coordinates of Review Area: Lat: 33.0856 Long: -80.1981
- c. Nearest City: Goose Creek
- d. County: Berkeley
- e. State: South Carolina

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. Ashley River, a TNW subject to the ebb and flow of the tide⁵

⁵ This MFR should not be used to complete a new stand-alone TNW determination. A stand-alone TNW determination for a water that is not subject to Section 9 or 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA) is completed independently of a request for an AJD. A stand-alone TNW determination is

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5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS An onsite perennial tributary originating onsite, continues offsite to the west, eventually discharging into Cypress swamp, a perennial tributary, that discharges in the Ashley River, a TNW.
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 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

conducted for a specific segment of river or stream or other type of waterbody, such as a lake, where upstream or downstream limits or lake borders are established.

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.

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- e. Tributaries (a)(5): [99 linear feet of tributaries that are relatively permanent waters (RPWs). This feature originates within the expansive wetlands also onsite and channelize at the southwestern portions of the site. Flow regime is persistent flowing, although the channel is narrow, the flow is perennial with a clearly defined OHWM as identified by the agent / consultant.
- f. The territorial seas (a)(6): [N/A]
- g. Adjacent wetlands (a)(7): The 30.30 acres of onsite wetlands satisfied the required three parameters and is bisected by the tributary (requisite) water. The location of the tributary within the boundaries of the wetland meet the continuous surface requirements because they physically touch its OHWM.

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

⁸ 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

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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. Review performed for Site Evaluation: Office (desktop) Determination.
Date: May 29, 2025
 - b. Map submitted by or on behalf of, the applicant/consultant:
“USACE_AJD_Figures_red_v1.pdf map included in the original submittal dated October 14, 2024 by the agent.
 - c. Wetland Delineation Data Sheets: Prepared and submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant. This office concurs with the data sheets/delineation report.
 - d. Site Photographs: Photos provided included in the original submittal dated October 14, 2024 by the agent.
 - e. USGS Topographic map: 7.5 Minute – Summerville Quad: Quad depicts the review area as forested. No symbols that typically represent potential waters of the US are depicted on the USGS topographic maps.
 - f. USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) Map Service: NWI depicts the review area as upland with one freshwater forested/shrub wetland. <https://arcportal-cop-cop.usace.army.mil/s0portal/home/item.html?id=1eb5aab71973402fbdb879cbb7bd3595>

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- g. National Hydrographic Dataset (NHD): NHD does not depict any linear features within the review area.
<https://hydro.nationalmap.gov/arcgis/rest/services/nhd/MapServer>
- h. USDA NRCS Soil Survey: Soil survey depicts the following soil types: Lynchburg loamy sand (0 to 2 percent slopes), and Rains sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes). This layer displays soil map units derived from the SSURGO database.
<https://arcportal-ucop-corps.usace.army.mil/s0portal/home/item.html?id=045a6ccb74954698892c0cc5106beee5>
- i. USGS 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) Map Service: <https://arcportal-ucop-corps.usace.army.mil/s0portal/home/item.html?id=8ba4619c2e60467a909a1bc31e3a06cc>
- j. Aerial Imagery: ESRI base layer imagery, 2020 SCDNR IR Aerial_2020_NIR (Map Service)
https://tiles.arcgis.com/tiles/RvqSyw3dil7dTKo5/arcgis/rest/services/SC_2020_NIR/MapServer

10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION.

- a. EPA / HQ joint memo, MEMORANDUM TO THE FIELD BETWEEN THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CONCERNING THE PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF “CONTINUOUS SURFACE CONNECTION” UNDER THE DEFINITION OF “WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES” UNDER THE CLEAR WATER ACT, dated March 12, 2025.

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.



235 Magrath Darby Blvd, Suite 275
 Mt. Pleasant, Charleston County, SC
 Ph: (843) 779-3717 Fx: (843) 556-4329
 www.jmt.com

Figure 8
 Aquatic Resources
 Map

Kenneth Flowers (207-00-02-047)
 Aquatic Features Delineation
 Summerville, Berkeley County, SC
 Source: Berkeley GIS, SCDNR
 Date: October 14, 2024

