



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

CESAC-RDS

13 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 SAC-2023-01569 (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 US (WOTUS)	Section 404/ Section 10
Non-Jurisdictional Feature 1	0.4 AC	No	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. 651, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)
- e. 1980s preamble language (including regarding waters and features that are generally non-jurisdictional) (51 FR 41217 (November 13, 1986) and 53 FR 20765 (June 6, 1988))

3. REVIEW AREA.

- a. Project Area Size: 0.6 acres
- b. Center Coordinates of the review area: Latitude: 33.1704 °N, Longitude: - 80.5496 °W
- c. Nearest City: St. George
- d. County: Dorchester
- e. State: South Carolina

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4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. N/A. The review area is void of any TNW, Interstate water, or Territorial Seas which the aquatic resource can connect to.⁶
5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS. The aquatic resource does not contain a flow path to a TNW, Interstate Water, or Territorial Sea.
6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁷: 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 10.⁸ 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.

⁶ 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 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.

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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.

- 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”).⁹ 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.

Non-Jurisdictional Feature 1: This open water feature is approximately 0.4-acre in size. This feature was originally excavated out of dry land to create a small artificial ornamental water feature for the associated golf course in the 1980s. This feature is not depicted on USGS TOPOs. According to the USDA Soil Map Unit, this feature was excavated out of Lynchburg loamy sand, which is rated as a Non-Hydric Soil.

Therefore, it was determined that this feature falls under the category as “generally non-jurisdictional” in the preamble to the 1986 regulations under *Artificial reflecting or swimming pools or other small ornamental bodies of water created by excavating or diking dry land to retain water for primarily aesthetic reasons*.

- 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.

⁹ 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

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- 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. Review Performed for Site Evaluation: Office (Desk) Determination. Date: April 9, 2025.
 - b. Aquatic Resources delineation submitted by, or on behalf of, the requestor: Approved Jurisdictional Determination Request package including associated data maps, and aquatic resource map titled “WETLANDS EXHIBIT DR HORTON – DURR TRACT DORCHESTER COUNTY, SC dated April 11, 2025, prepared by Sabine & Waters, Inc.
 - c. Aerial Imagery Map: “Aerial Imagery” source: ESRI Basemap, World Imagery; prepared by the Corps’ dated May 12, 2025.

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- d. National Wetland Inventory Map: "NWI MAP DR HORTON – DURR TRACT DORCHESTER COUNTY, SC"; prepared by Sabine & Waters, Inc. dated December 1, 2023.
- e. Natural Resource Conservation Survey: "MAPPED SOILS DR HORTON – DURR TRACT DORCHESTER COUNTY, SC"; prepared by Sabine & Waters, Inc. dated December 1, 2023.
- f. U.S. Geological Survey Map: "USGS TOPO Survey" source: USGS Topographic Survey Saint George, SC, Quad Scale 1:24000; prepared by the Corps' dated May 12, 2025.

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.

**THE APPROXIMATE WETLAND
BOUNDARIES DEPICTED ON THIS
MAP ARE NOT FINAL AND ARE
SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY THE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS.**

Project Area
Reference Coordinate 1:
Lat: 33.170760
Long: -80.549517

Upland 1:
~0.2 acre

Project Area
Reference Coordinate 4:
Lat: 33.170466
Long: -80.550019

Non-Jurisdictional Feature 1:
~0.4 acre

Project Area
Reference Coordinate 3:
Lat: 33.170147
Long: -80.549786

Project Area
Reference Coordinate 2:
Lat: 33.170460
Long: -80.549298

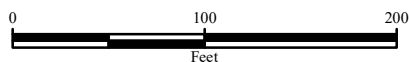
EXTERNAL SOURCES: NAIP 2023 TRUE COLOR AERIAL, U.S. CENSUS ROADS,
DORCHESTER COUNTY GIS PARCEL

Created By: Stephen Bennett
Date Created: February 12, 2025
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mapping\mapping\usace\wet_exhibit2.mxd
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Disclaimer: This map is a graphic representation of data obtained from various
sources. All efforts have been made to warrant the accuracy of this map. However,
Sabine & Waters, Inc. disclaims all responsibility and liability for the use of this map.

REVISED: 4/11/2025

WETLANDS EXHIBIT DR HORTON - DURR TRACT DORCHESTER COUNTY, SC



LEGEND

- PROJECT AREA: +/- 0.6 AC
- NON-JURISDICTIONAL FEATURE: +/- 0.4 AC
- ROADS

Long: -80.549690
Lat: 33.170450