



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

CESAC-RDE

23 OCTOBER 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-2022-00381, (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.

CESAC-RD

SUBJECT: Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), SAC-2022-00381, MFR 1 of 1

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 (WOUS)	Section 404/Section 10
(NJW-A) Non-Jurisdictional Wetland	4.55 AC	no	N/A
(NJF-1) Non-Jurisdictional Ditch	605 L.F.	no	N/A
(NJF-2) Non-Jurisdictional Ditch	174 L.F.		N/A
(NJF-3) Non-Jurisdictional Ditch	1,957 L.F.	no	N/A
(NJF-4) Non-Jurisdictional Ditch	919 L.F.	no	N/A
(NJF-5) Non-Jurisdictional Ditch	753 L.F.	no	N/A
(NJF-6) Non-Jurisdictional Ditch	154 L.F.	no	N/A
(NJF-7) Non-Jurisdictional Ditch	406 L.F.	no	N/A
(JW-B) Jurisdictional Wetland	0.72 ac	yes	Section 404
(JW-C) Jurisdictional Wetland	0.79 ac	yes	Section 404

2. REFERENCES.

- a. Final Rule for Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers, 51 FR 41206 (November 13, 1986).

CESAC-RD

SUBJECT: Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), SAC-2022-00381, MFR 1 of 1

- 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: 117.16 acres
- b. Center Coordinates of the review area: Latitude: 34.3633°N, Longitude - 79.9106°W
- c. Nearest City: Darlington
- d. County: Darlington
- e. State: South Carolina

The review area is approximately 117.16 acres and is represented by three (3) Darlington County Tax Parcel numbers (142-00-02-042, 049, and 094). Construction of a county school has begun on the site. The remaining portions of the site consist of agricultural land and forested areas that were recently clear-cut. A Delineation Concurrence was issued for this site on October 28, 2022 (SAC-2022-00381).

- 4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. Great Pee Dee River: Section 10 Waterbody. Navigable limits of the Great Pee Dee River are documented in the Corps' Navigability Study of 1977, Great Pee Dee River Basin Report No. 11.⁶
- 5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS:

Jurisdictional Wetland "JW-B" is 0.72-acre in size and is adjacent to an offsite non-jurisdictional ditch just north of the northern property boundary that flows northeast to its confluence with a non-jurisdictional roadside ditch along North Governor Williams Highway, which flows south and then under North Governor Williams

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.

CESAC-RD

SUBJECT: Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), SAC-2022-00381, MFR 1 of 1

Highway to the east into an unnamed perennial tributary. The unnamed perennial tributary flows northeast directly into Lucas Creek (perennial tributary) which flows into Black Creek (perennial tributary), which flows into the Great Pee Dee River (TNW). (See flow map in file titled “SAC-2022-00381 Flow Map” and dated June 14, 2024. There is approximately 4,000 linear feet of continuous surface connection (non-jurisdictional ditches) between JW-B and the nearest downstream WOUS (unnamed perennial tributary).

Jurisdictional Wetland “JW-C” is 0.79 acre in size and is adjacent to an offsite non-jurisdictional ditch just south of the southern property boundary that flows northeast to its confluence with NJF-4 (non-jurisdictional ditch), which flows into the non-jurisdictional roadside ditch along North Governor Williams Highway, which flows south and then under North Governor Williams Highway to the east into an unnamed perennial tributary. The unnamed perennial tributary flows northeast directly into Lucas Creek (perennial tributary) which flows into Black Creek (perennial tributary), which flows into the Great Pee Dee River (TNW). (See flow map in file titled “SAC-2022-00381 Flow Map” and dated June 14, 2024. There is approximately 3,500 linear feet of continuous surface connection (non-jurisdictional ditches) between JW-C and the nearest downstream WOUS (unnamed perennial tributary).

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

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.

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): The review area contains two (2) jurisdictional wetlands; JW-B (0.72 acre) and JW-C (0.79 acre). JW-B and JW-C are non-tidal wetlands that were determined to have a continuous surface connection to an offsite jurisdictional water. See Section 5 above for the flow path from JW-B to the TNW (Great Pee Dee River).

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. **N/A.**

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

⁹ 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

The review area contains seven upland excavated agricultural ditches totaling +/- 4,968 linear feet. These features are identified as Non-Jurisdictional Features (NJF) on the associated wetland sketch. These features were determined to have been excavated wholly in and draining only dry lands and do not carry a relative 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).

Non-Jurisdictional Wetland (JW-B) The project area contains one wetland (NJW-A, 4.55 acre) that was assessed within the review area and determined be an isolated non-jurisdictional wetland. This depressional wetland exhibited hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and indicators of hydrology, which satisfied the criteria set forth in the 1987 Corps’ Wetland Delineation Manual and the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Regional Supplement. All water located within or draining toward this wetland had no discernible or traceable outfall or connection to any Waters of the US (WOUS). Additionally, the wetland was found to be surrounded by uplands which further disrupts possible connections to any WOUS. The topographic map depicts this wetland as forested uplands. A dashed blue line feature is depicted on topographic maps which correlates with the Non-Jurisdictional Feature (NJF-3) depicted on the associated wetland sketch. A

CESAC-RD

SUBJECT: Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), SAC-2022-00381, MFR 1 of 1

section of NJF-3 and NJF-7 were filled discontinuing any possible surface connection to another WOUS.

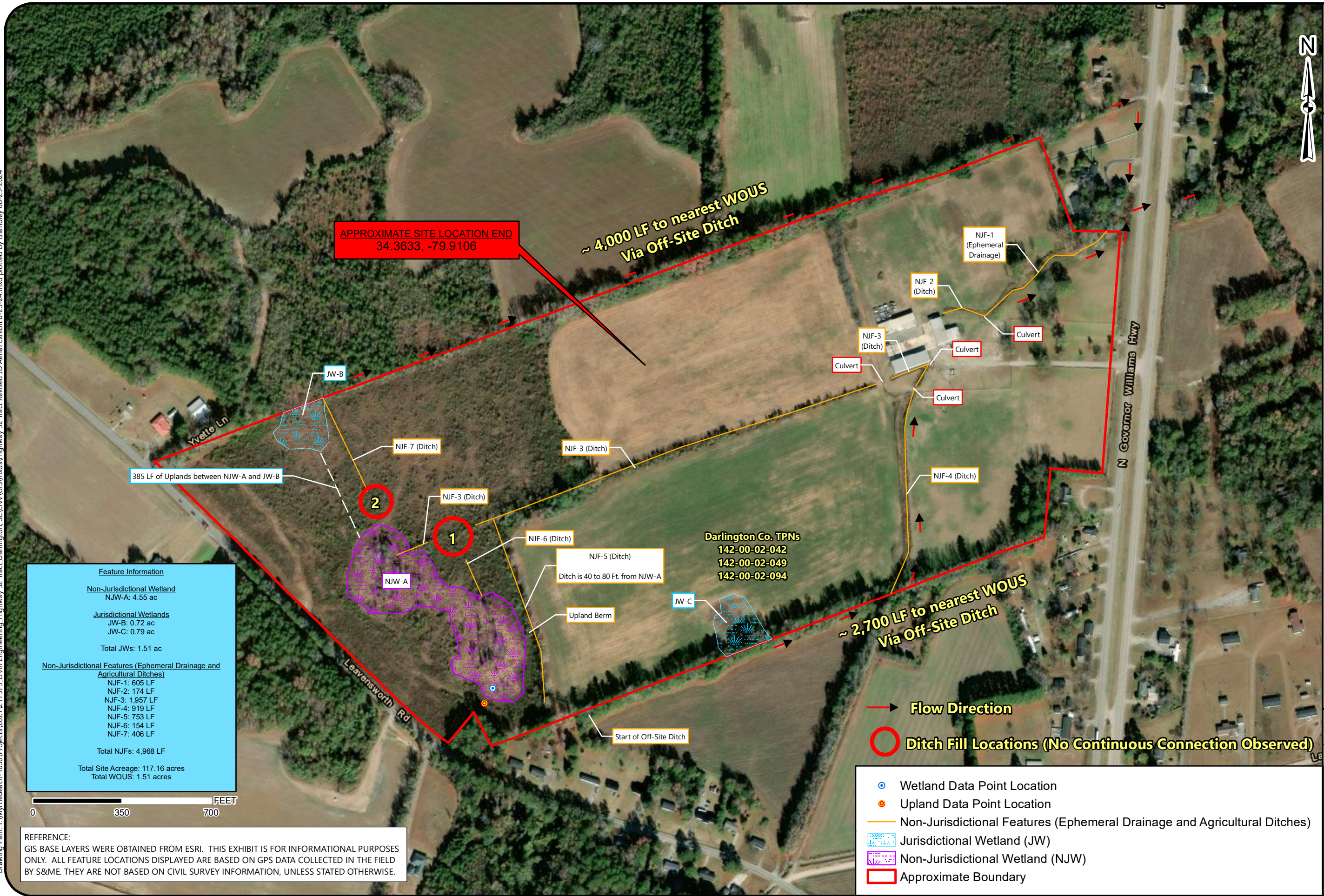
9. DATA SOURCES. List sources of data/information used in making determination. Include titles and dates of sources used and ensure that information referenced is available in the administrative record.
 - a. Review Performed for Site Evaluation: Site Visit performed on August 22, 2024.
 - b. Aquatic Resources delineation submitted by, or on behalf of, the requestor: Wetland delineation submittal for the Highway 52 Tract provided by S&ME, Inc. in the submittal dated November 20, 2023, and the revised delineation map submitted on August 23, 2024.
 - c. Aerial Imagery: 2020 SCDNR IR Aerial & 2020 SCDNR Aerial SC_2020_NIR (Map Service)
 - d. LIDAR: 3DEP Digital Elevation Model (DEM)
<https://elevation.nationalmap.gov/arcgis/rest/services/3DEPElevation/ImageServer>
 - e. USDA NRCS Soil Survey: Rains, Goldsboro, and Noboco. SSURGO database.
 - f. USGS topographic maps: 7.5 Minute – Floyd Quad: Quad depicts upland forested areas, and wetland forested areas within the project area boundary as well as dashed blue line linear features for the onsite non-jurisdictional ditches. USA Topo Map
 - g. National Wetland Inventory (NWI): NWI depicts the delineated boundaries of the on wetlands as palustrine forested wetlands. The remainder of the site is depicted as uplands.
<https://fwspublicservices.wim.usgs.gov/wetlandsmapservice/rest/services/Wetlands/MapServer/0>
 - h. National Hydrography Dataset (NHD): NHD identifies offsite tributary (Lucas Creek) as a tributary with a flow regime of perennial. The onsite non-jurisdictional ditches are depicted as features with intermittent flow.
<https://hydro.nationalmap.gov/arcgis/rest/services/nhd/MapServer>
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

CESAC-RD

SUBJECT: Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), SAC-2022-00381, MFR 1 of 1

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.

Drawing Path: T:\MyrtleBeach-1630\Projects\2021\217575- Ervin Engineering, Highway 52 Tract, Darlington, SC\ENV\GIS\mxd\Highway 52 Tract Revised JD Aerial Exhibit 8-23-24.mxd plotted by chandley 08-23-2024



REFERENCE:
GIS BASE LAYERS WERE OBTAINED FROM ESRI. THIS EXHIBIT IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. ALL FEATURE LOCATIONS DISPLAYED ARE BASED ON GPS DATA COLLECTED IN THE FIELD BY S&ME. THEY ARE NOT BASED ON CIVIL SURVEY INFORMATION, UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE.



Aerial Exhibit

Highway 52 Tract +/- 117.16 Acres
Darlington, Darlington County, South Carolina
World Imagery 2023

SCALE:
1" = 350'

DATE:
8-23-24

PROJECT NUMBER
23610416

EXHIBIT NO.

3