



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

CESAC-RD

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*, 598 U.S. 651 (2023),¹
SAC-2024-00931(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).
 - i. Wetland A, 0.83 acres in size, non-jurisdictional

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 (2023)

3. REVIEW AREA.

- a. Project Area Size: 60.6 acres
- b. Center Coordinates of the review area: Latitude: 33.8664 °, Longitude - 81.0205 °
- c. Nearest City: Gaston
- d. County: Calhoun
- e. State: South Carolina
- f. Figure 8. Aquatic Features Map prepared by JMT dated January 2024.
- g. AJD SAC-2019-00435 form 2 of 4 issued 14 May 2020 under *Rapanos* determined 0.83-acre Wetland A was jurisdictional as adjacent to but not directly abutting the Congaree River, a TNW. The AJD documented the wetland (labeled JW-C, 0.83 acres in size) had a hydrological connection via an off-site non-jurisdictional ditch which drains into a large wetland system adjacent to the Congaree River.

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4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED.⁶ N/A
5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS. N/A
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
 - b. Interstate Waters (a)(2): 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.

- 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. 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 2001 Supreme Court decision in “*SWANCC*,” would have been jurisdictional based solely on the “Migratory Bird Rule.” Include the size of the aquatic

⁹ 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

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).

This office verified that Wetland A contains all three parameters that define a wetland as outlined in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Regional Supplement (Version 2.0) and is 0.83 acre. Reference Figure 8. Aquatic Features Map prepared by JMT dated January 2024. A wetland delineation was completed on Wetland A by S&ME, Inc. for the review of SAC-2019-00435 AJD issued 14 May 2020, covering a larger review area, but inclusive of the subject review area discussed on this MFR. An 16 August 2024 (Desk) review of remote resources (i.e., aerial imagery, hydric soils information, LiDAR imagery, etc.) shows Wetland A’s boundary is clearly distinct from the uplands that encompass it to the north, west, and south and a paved road identified as “K” Avenue” borders it to the east.

After a rainfall event, when water pools in Wetland A 2-3 feet, it overflows into a 24-inch diameter pipe under K Avenue which extends 87 linear feet until the water outfalls into an underground stormwater catch basin. In addition to flow from the pipe under K Avenue the stormwater catch basin receives sheet flow from an approximately 4-acre gravel parking/lawn area through a surface grate. The catch basin has 2 feet of vertical storage before reaching capacity. Once the catch basin reaches capacity water outfalls into another 24-inch diameter pipe which extends 235 linear feet to the northeast and the water outfalls at a height of 6 vertical feet above an open ditch, referenced in AJD SAC-2019-00435 as “off-site non-jurisdictional ditch” (see Section 3). The open ditch flows into the Congaree River, a TNW. However, the flow into the catch basin with other storm system conveyances does not qualify as flow through a discrete feature that can serve as a continuous surface connection (Memorandum on NWP-2023-00602). Therefore, Wetland A does not have a continuous surface connection to a requisite water and is not a 7.g. adjacent wetland.

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.

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- a. Review Performed for Site Evaluation: An Office (Desk) Review was completed on 16 August 2024, which relied heavily on flow information provided by the agent, Additional Information provided by JMT dated 9 August 2024. The flow information was based, in part, on a site visit complete by JMT on 7 August 2024. The USACE Antecedent Precipitation Tool identified the rainfall on 7 August 2024, at this location as under normal conditions.
- b. A wetland delineation was completed on Wetland A by S&ME, Inc. for the review of SAC-2019-00435 AJD issued 14 May 2020, covering a large review area but inclusive of the subject review area. The Office (Desk) review of remote resources determined Wetland A's boundary stands out from the surrounding uplands, and that site conditions had not changed since the 14 May 2020, SAC-2019-00435 AJD. Therefore, a new wetland delineation was not required.
- c. LIDAR: 3DEP Digital Elevation Model (DEM) prepared by the Corps during 16 August 2024, desk review.
<https://elevation.nationalmap.gov/arcgis/rest/services/3DEPElevation/ImageServer>
- d. USDA NRCS Soil Survey (USDA NRCS, Esri) prepared by the Corps during 16 August 2024, desk review.
- e. USGS topographic maps - 7.5 Minute Index: Gaston. Prepared by the Corps during 16 August 2024 desk review.
- f. SAC-2019-00435 AJD issued 14 May 2020, covering a larger review area but inclusive of the subject review area.

10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION.

- a. MEMORANDUM ON NWP-2023-00602 with EPA and USACE signed 19 March 2024.

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.



Project Boundary (60.6 AC)



Wetland

Wetland A - 0.83 AC



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Figure 8. Aquatic Features Map

USACE Approved Jurisdictional Request
Blanchard Campus - Sandy Run Calhoun
County, South Carolina
Source: JMT, S&ME and ESRI
Date: January 2024

1 inch = 308 feet

