



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST. LOUIS DISTRICT
1222 SPRUCE STREET
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103

CEMVSOD-F

5 June 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 [MVS-2023-699](#)

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 Missouri](#) 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).
 - i. Feature 1(A/B/C): Stream Channel. Jurisdictional. Section 404. Non-navigable.
 - ii. Feature 2(A): Stream Channel. Non-jurisdictional.
 - iii. Feature 3: Pond. Non-jurisdictional.
 - iv. Feature 4(A): Stream Channel. Non-jurisdictional. Non-navigable
 - v. Feature 5: Pond. Non-jurisdictional.



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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. The site is approximately 240-acres and is located at Latitude: 40.1970, Longitude: -92.5601. City of Kirksville, Adair County, Missouri.

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. The Salt River is the nearest Traditional Navigable Water. The Salt River has been determined by the Corps to be a Section 10 water from mile 0 to mile 5.1 in Riverland, MO (Approximately at the Burlington Northern RR Bridge).

5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS The drainages onsite are within the Steer Creek watershed. Steer Creek flows into North Fork Salt River, which is a primary tributary to the Salt River. The Salt River is impounded within its length for creation of the Corps Mark Twain Lake. The Salt River continues downstream of Mark Twain Lake and flows into the Mississippi River.

6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁵: 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 10.⁶ NA

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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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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): NA
 - b. Interstate Waters (a)(2): NA
 - c. Other Waters (a)(3): NA
 - d. Impoundments (a)(4): NA
 - e. Tributaries (a)(5): Feature 1 (A/B/C): Relatively permanent water. The channel is meandering and features an OHWM. Flow within the channel occurs greater than 3 months out of the year and is generally at a depth of approximately 3". Feature 1 flows east to west across the southern section of the site and flows offsite to the west and eventually flows into Steer Creek. The consultant conducted a site visit on 11/13/23 and observed flowing water within the entire length of the channel. Feature 1 has a 122-acre watershed. The flow characteristics at the downstream limit are representative of the entire reach of the tributary. Physical characteristics combined with the systems watershed conditions provide weight-of-evidence that the tributary has flowing water continuously during certain times of the year (ie, wet season), which is necessary to meet the relatively permanent standard.
 - f. The territorial seas (a)(6): NA
 - g. Adjacent wetlands (a)(7): NA
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”).⁷ 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. NA

Feature 3: Open water body built in an upland. The pond lacks the necessary connectivity to a jurisdictional water. Feature 3 is not jurisdictional and was created in uplands, drains only uplands and was built primary for aesthetic reasons.

Feature 5: Open water body built in an upland. The pond lacks the necessary connectivity to a jurisdictional water. Feature 5 is not jurisdictional and was created in uplands, drains only uplands and was built primary for 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. NA
- 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. NA
- 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. NA
- 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 or enter rationale/discussion here.]
- 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

⁷ 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

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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).

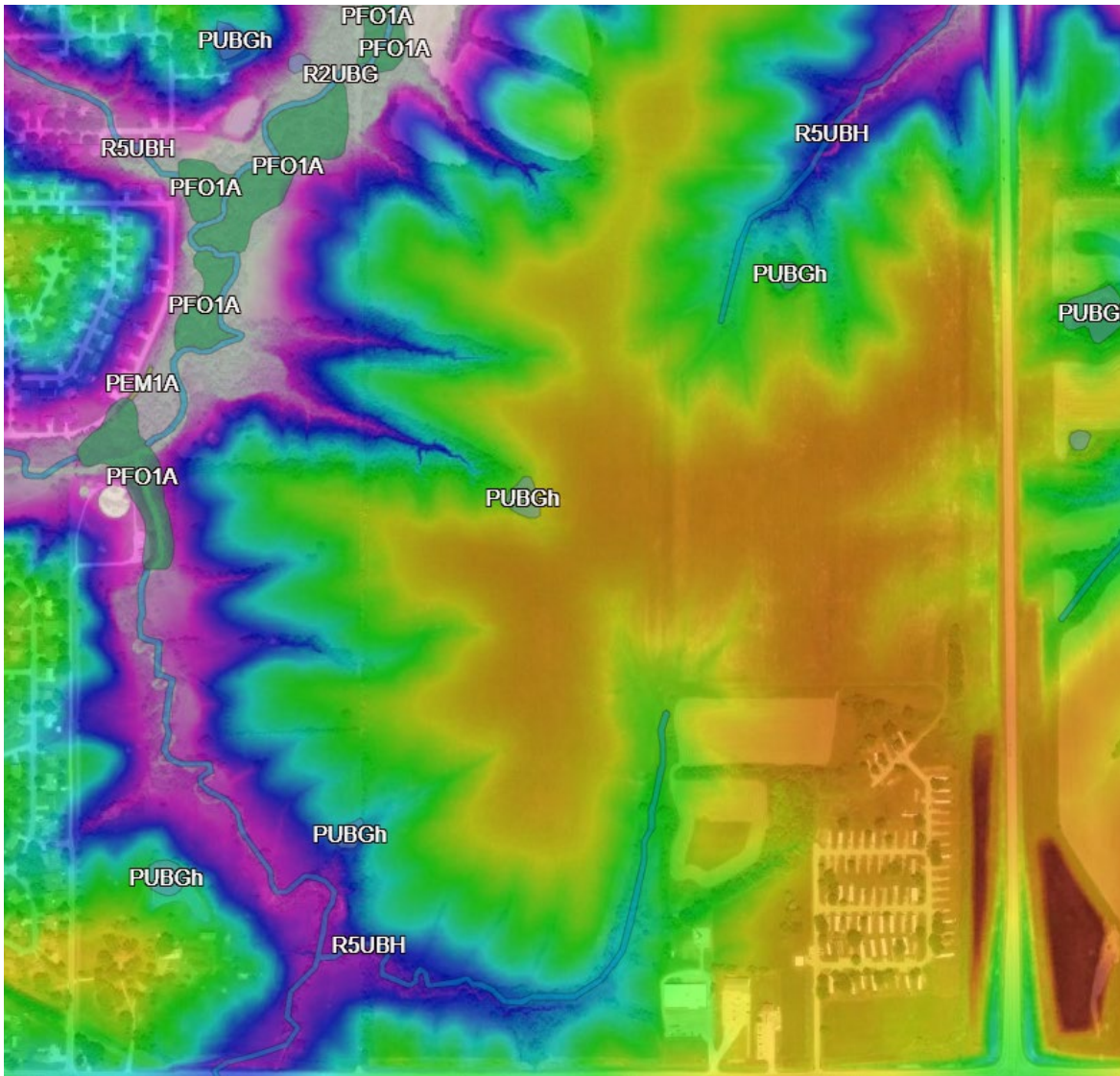
Feature 2(A): The drainage is a non-relatively permanent waterbody that only flows after rainfall events. This drainage is located within the northeast portion of the site. Feature 2 is a first order, non-navigable tributary and is not jurisdictional. The flow regime was analyzed at the furthest downstream portion of the first order reach, and it was consistent throughout.

Feature 4(A): The drainage is a non-relatively permanent waterbody that only flows after rainfall events. The channel only has flow in response to rainfall events. The drainage is located within the western portion of the site. Feature 4 is a first order, non-navigable tributary and is not jurisdictional. The flow regime was analyzed at the furthest downstream portion of the first order reach, and it was consistent throughout.

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. Agent site visit conducted 11/13/23 and delineation dated 12/1/23
 - b. National Wetland Inventory Map
 - c. FEMA Maps
 - d. USGS Streamstats
10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. NA
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.

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