



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

CEMVS-RD

March 4, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Approved Jurisdictional Determination in accordance with the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'"; (88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) as amended by the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" (8 September 2023) ,¹ [MVS-2025-121](#)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

On January 18, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army ("the agencies") published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States,'" 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) ("2023 Rule"). On September 8, 2023, the agencies published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming", which amended the 2023 Rule to conform to the 2023 Supreme Court decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S., 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023) ("*Sackett*").

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),⁵ the 2023 Rule as amended, as well as other applicable guidance, relevant case law, and longstanding practice in evaluating jurisdiction.

¹ While the Revised Definition of "Waters of the United States"; Conforming 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, the territorial seas, or interstate water 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.

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).

- 1) [Unnamed Tributary \(400 feet\), non-jurisdictional](#)

2. REFERENCES.

- a. "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States,'" 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) ("2023 Rule")
- b. "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" 88 FR 61964(September 8, 2023) (2023 Rule, as amended)
- c. *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S. 651, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)
- d. [Citing to the 27 September coordination memo, specifically to the language which reads, "Because the Supreme Court in Sackett adopted the Rapanos plurality standard and the 2023 rule preamble discussed the Rapanos plurality standard, the implementation guidance and tools in the 2023 rule preamble that address the regulatory text that was not amended by the conforming rule, including the preamble relevant to the Rapanos plurality standard incorporated in paragraphs \(a\)\(3\), \(4\), and \(5\) of the 2023 rule, as amended, generally remain relevant to implementing the 2023 rule, as amended."](#)

3. REVIEW AREA. [The Review Area consists of approximately 400-linear feet of channel relocation proposed for agricultural purposes in Breese, Clinton County, Illinois. The Review Area generally lies in Northeast ¼ of Section 29, Township North, and Range 4 West. Approximate coordinates for the center of the Review Area are Latitude 38.591489° and Longitude -89.554022°.](#)

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. [Kaskaskia River \(TNW\)](#)

5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER. [Surface drainage exits the Review Area through the unnamed tributary to Grassy Branch. Flows continue southwest within Grassy Branch until intersecting Sugar Creek and eventually the Kaskaskia River, a TNW. The lower Kaskaskia River is a Section 10 water within](#)

[the St. Louis District from mile 0, at the confluence with the Mississippi River to mile 36.2, at Fayetteville, Illinois.](#)

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 2023 Rule as amended, 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 2023 Rule as amended. 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. Traditional Navigable Waters (TNWs) (a)(1)(i): **N/A**
 - b. The Territorial Seas (a)(1)(ii): **N/A**
 - c. Interstate Waters (a)(1)(iii): **N/A**
 - d. Impoundments (a)(2): **N/A**
 - e. Tributaries (a)(3): **N/A**
 - f. Adjacent Wetlands (a)(4): **N/A**
 - g. Additional Waters (a)(5): **N/A**

8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES
 - a. Describe aquatic resources and other features within the review area identified in the 2023 Rule as amended as not “waters of the United States” even where they otherwise meet the terms of paragraphs (a)(2) through (5). Include the type of

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.

excluded aquatic resource or feature, the size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to meet one of the exclusions listed in 33 CFR 328.3(b).⁸

- b. 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 2023 Rule as amended (e.g., tributaries that are non-relatively permanent waters; non-tidal wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water).

The **Unnamed Tributary** is a single first-order tributary, that flows 1,200-feet downstream of the project site and intersects with Grassy Branch. Hydrology from the approximately 230-acre watershed enters the tributary system and flows south for roughly 6,300 feet before exiting the Review Area. Most of the tributary, except for one pooled area, was observed being dry, during wetter than normal conditions for February. The onset of streamflow coincides with precipitation events and cease shortly after the termination of overland run-off. Even with presumed back-to-back or multiple storm events throughout the watershed, this system would not sustain baseflows for extended periods of time, but rather maintain a repeated sequence of streamflow, flow cessation, and channel drying throughout the year. Based on the channel's physical characteristics, on-site observations, location within the local watershed and the lack of standing or flowing water for more than a short duration in direct response to precipitation, this feature is best characterized as non-relatively permanent waters.

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. Field Visit dated March 3, 2025
 - b. USGS Topographic Maps, 1:24,000 Scale, Breese, IL Quad
 - c. USGS NHDPlus
 - d. USGS Stream Stats
 - e. USDA-NRCS Soil Survey for Clinton County, Illinois
 - f. USFWS National Wetland Inventory, Color Infrared, 1980's, 1:58,000 Scale
 - g. Illinois Height Modernization (ILHMP) LiDAR Data
 - h. Illinois Historic Aerial Photography – ISGS Geospatial Data Clearinghouse
 - i. Google Earth Pro Aerial Imagery, Various Aerial Images

10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION.

⁸ 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023)

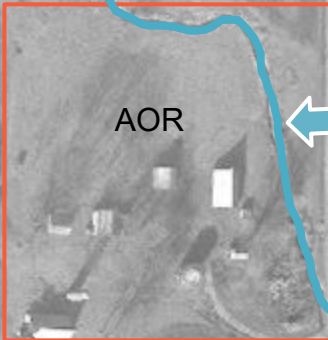
CEMVS-OD-F

SUBJECT: 2023 Rule, as amended, Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), [MVS-2025-121](#)

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.

Legend

-  Override 1
-  Override 1
-  Override 2



AOR

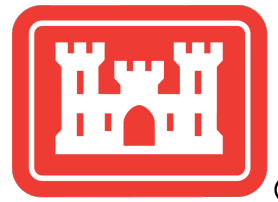


Unnamed Tributary

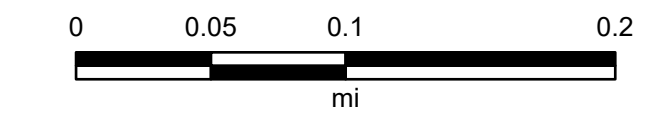


Grassy Branch

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MVS-2025-121



Map Center: 89.553991°W 38.589306°N

Map Created by: T. Zobrist

Date: 3/5/2025

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere
Projection: Mercator Auxiliary Sphere