



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT  
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

SAS-RD-C

28 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),<sup>1</sup> SAS-2021-00391, MFR 1 of 1<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),<sup>5</sup> 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

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.).

<sup>3</sup> 33 CFR 331.2.

<sup>4</sup> Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

<sup>5</sup> 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.



SAS-RD

SUBJECT: Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), SAS-2021-00391

B. Determination based on: This determination was made based on a review of desktop data resources listed in Section 9 of this memorandum and a field visit conducted on May 3, 2024, a review of the SAS Section 10 list (for a water body that is navigable-in-fact under federal law for any purpose (such as Section 10, RHA), that water body categorically qualifies as a Section 404 "traditional navigable water" subject to CWA jurisdiction under 33 CFR 328.3(a)(1)), and documented (include in AR) occurrences of boating traffic on the identified water.

5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS

The on-site wetland is continuous and abutting to a ditch along the northern project boundary. The ditch has a continuous surface connection to an unnamed canal which is a relatively permanent water (RPW). The ditch flows east from the project area for approximately 650 ft until it reaches the canal. The canal continues north to Mill Creek (a RPW). Mill Creek continues east to Black Creek (a RPW) which connects to the Ogeechee River (a TNW).

6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS<sup>6</sup>: 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.<sup>7</sup> 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

---

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

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):

Name of Aquatic Resource	Size (in acres)	Contiguous with or abutting? If so, list water	Describe continuous surface connection
Jurisdictional Wetland	1.47	Yes, Ogeechee River	The wetland boundary is connecting and contiguous with a ditch system along the northern edge of the project area. The ditch system has a continuous surface connection to an unnamed canal (a RPW) to the east of the project area. The canal is continuous with Mill Creek (a RPW) which connects to Black Creek (a RPW). Black Creek connects to the Ogeechee River (a TNW).

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”).<sup>8</sup> 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

<sup>8</sup> 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

SAS-RD

SUBJECT: Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), SAS-2021-00391

- 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).

Name of excluded feature	Size (in acres)	Type of resource generally not jurisdictional
Non-Jurisdictional Wetland	1.24	Wetland lacks a continuous surface connection to water of the US. This wetland is a depressional wetland that is surrounded entirely by uplands. Based on a site visit conducted on May 3, 2024, and contour lines observed from LIDAR, the Corps determined there is no discrete feature present that would constitute a continuous surface connection to an a(1)-a(6) water.

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. 1. Date of Office (desktop review): June 21, 2024  
2. Date(s) of Field Review (if applicable): May 3, 2024
  - b. Data sources used to support this determination (included in the administrative record).

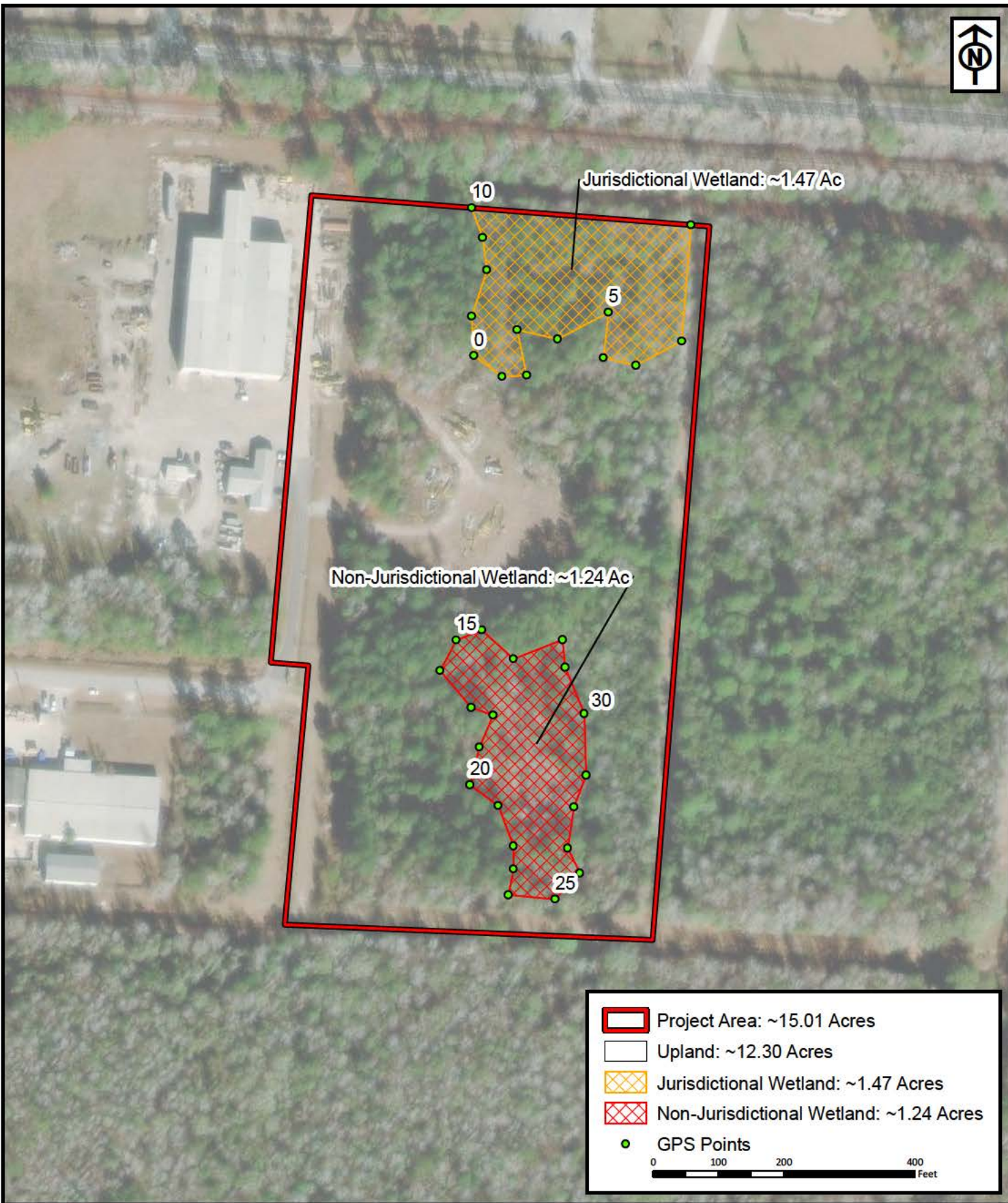
SAS-RD

SUBJECT: Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), SAS-2021-00391

- Aquatic Resources delineation submitted by, or on behalf of, the requestor:  
Titled [REDACTED]
- Photographs: Taken during Corps site visit on May 3, 2024.
- Aerial Imagery: Source: Google Earth and dated June 21, 2024.
- LIDAR: Source: NOAA and dated June 21, 2024.
- USDA NRCS Soil Survey: Titled "Custom Soil Resource Report" and dated June 21, 2024.
- USFWS NWI maps: Titled "NWI" and dated June 21, 2024.
- USGS NHD data/maps: Titled "NHD Overview" and dated June 21, 2024.
- Section 10 resources used: Titled "Savannah District – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch".
- Antecedent Precipitation Tool Analysis: List Date(s) December 12, 2023, and May 3, 2024.

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.



Label	Latitude	Longitude
0	32.133578	-81.607606
1	32.133490	-81.607466
2	32.133493	-81.607347
3	32.133684	-81.607393
4	32.133645	-81.607192
5	32.133756	-81.606942
6	32.133567	-81.606965
7	32.133533	-81.606808
8	32.133634	-81.606580
9	32.134121	-81.606532
10	32.134198	-81.607612
11	32.134072	-81.607560
12	32.133936	-81.607540
13	32.133743	-81.607615
14	32.132427	-81.607574
15	32.132385	-81.607699
16	32.132257	-81.607780
17	32.132102	-81.607628
18	32.132070	-81.607519
19	32.131935	-81.607587
20	32.131778	-81.607636
21	32.131690	-81.607496
22	32.131521	-81.607422
23	32.131424	-81.607422
24	32.131315	-81.607449
25	32.131297	-81.607219
26	32.131405	-81.607096
27	32.131510	-81.607155
28	32.131682	-81.607124
29	32.131815	-81.607062
30	32.132075	-81.607071
31	32.132268	-81.607163
32	32.132385	-81.607177
33	32.132304	-81.607417