



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, VICKSBURG DISTRICT  
4155 EAST CLAY STREET  
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39183

CEMVK-RD

October 29, 2025

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> MVK-2022-162

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>2</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>3</sup> For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),<sup>4</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 amended on 8 September 2023 (Amended 2023 Rule) because, as of the date of this decision, the Amended 2023 Rule is not applicable in Mississippi due to litigation.

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<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> 33 CFR 331.2.

<sup>3</sup> Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

<sup>4</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.

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### 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)

Waters_Name	State	Cowardin_Code	Meas_Type	Amount	Units	Waters_Type	Latitude	Longitude
MVK-2022-162 Other Waters 5	MISSISSIPPI	R6	Linear	806.895917	FOOT	NON-WOTUS-TRIB.NEGATIVE-A5	34.95761400	-89.58749700
MVK-2022-162 Other Waters 6	MISSISSIPPI	R6	Linear	422.062444	FOOT	NON-WOTUS-TRIB.NEGATIVE-A5	34.95634600	-89.58680100
MVK-2022-162 Other Waters 7	MISSISSIPPI	R6	Linear	308.889017	FOOT	NON-WOTUS-TRIB.NEGATIVE-A5	34.95660500	-89.58650000
MVK-2022-162 Other Waters 8	MISSISSIPPI	R6	Linear	419.657535	FOOT	NON-WOTUS-TRIB.NEGATIVE-A5	34.95755600	-89.59113600
MVK-2022-162 Other Waters 9	MISSISSIPPI	R6	Linear	313.032894	FOOT	NON-WOTUS-TRIB.NEGATIVE-A5	34.96037200	-89.58738900
MVK-2022-162 Wetland 1	MISSISSIPPI	PFO	Area	0.050935	ACRE	NON-WOTUS-WETL.NEGATIVE-A7	34.96025500	-89.58885300
MVK-2022-162 Wetland 2	MISSISSIPPI	PEM	Area	0.271901	ACRE	NON-WOTUS-WETL.NEGATIVE-A7	34.95747800	-89.58736400
MVK-2022-162 Wetland 4	MISSISSIPPI	PEM	Area	0.121505	ACRE	NON-WOTUS-WETL.NEGATIVE-A7	34.95652900	-89.58565600
MVK-2022-162 Wetland 5	MISSISSIPPI	PEM	Area	0.071108	ACRE	NON-WOTUS-WETL.NEGATIVE-A7	34.95745500	-89.58585000
MVK-2022-162 Wetland 6	MISSISSIPPI	PEM	Area	0.053175	ACRE	NON-WOTUS-WETL.NEGATIVE-A7	34.95821100	-89.58672400
MVK-2022-162 Wetland 7	MISSISSIPPI	PEM	Area	0.080139	ACRE	NON-WOTUS-WETL.NEGATIVE-A7	34.95951600	-89.58606200
MVK-2022-162 Preamble Pond	MISSISSIPPI	L1	Area	0.557267	ACRE	NON-JD - PREAMBLE - ART.LAKE.POND	34.96099600	-89.58782200
MVK-2022-162 Wetland 8	MISSISSIPPI	PFO	Area	0.01456	ACRE	NON-WOTUS-WETL.NEGATIVE-A7	34.95604600	-89.58671800

### 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)

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### 3. REVIEW AREA.

The subject includes approximately 96 acres located just south of Highway 302 and northeast of Lee Creek Rd, in northern Marshall County, Mississippi.  
34.958194, -89.589473

### 4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. The Nearest downstream Section 10 TNW is the Coldwater River

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

The subject site drains north into Lee Creek (which is an onsite Perennial RPW being addressed via a PJD) All aquatic resources onsite drain into the Lee Creek where it flows for 11.04 KM before converging with the Coldwater River above Arkabutla Lake. It then flows through Arkabutla Lake via the Coldwater River for 15.8 KM before continuing down the Coldwater River for 76.1 KM before reaching the upper limit of Section 10 jurisdiction of the Coldwater River.

### 6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS<sup>5</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.

### 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

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<sup>5</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.

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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):
- b. Interstate Waters (a)(2):
- c. Other Waters (a)(3):
- d. Impoundments (a)(4):
- e. Tributaries (a)(5):
- f. The territorial seas (a)(6):
- g. Adjacent wetlands (a)(7):

## 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>6</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.

Based on site inspections, consultant’s delineation, historical aerial photographs, and the current regulations, it has been determined that the aquatic resource below satisfies the conditions set forth in the Preamble to be considered Not a WOTUS.

Waters_Name	State	Cowardin_Code	Meas_Type	Amount	Units	Waters_Type	Latitude	Longitude
MVK-2022-162 Preamble Pond	MISSISSIPPI	L1	Area	0.557267	ACRE	NON-JD - PREAMBLE - ART.LAKE.POND	34.96099600	-89.58782200

- b. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area identified as “generally not jurisdictional” in the *Rapanos* guidance. Include size of the aquatic

<sup>6</sup> 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

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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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 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).

The wetland features below do not directly abut and do not have a continuous surface connection to a requisite water and are non-jurisdictional.

Waters_Name	State	Cowardin_Code	Meas_Type	Amount	Units	Waters_Type	Latitude	Longitude
MVK-2022-162 Wetland 1	MISSISSIPPI	PFO	Area	0.050935	ACRE	NON-WOTUS-WETL.NEGATIVE-A7	34.96025500	-89.58885300
MVK-2022-162 Wetland 2	MISSISSIPPI	PEM	Area	0.271901	ACRE	NON-WOTUS-WETL.NEGATIVE-A7	34.95747800	-89.58736400
MVK-2022-162 Wetland 4	MISSISSIPPI	PEM	Area	0.121505	ACRE	NON-WOTUS-WETL.NEGATIVE-A7	34.95652900	-89.58565600
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MVK-2022-162 Wetland 8	MISSISSIPPI	PFO	Area	0.01456	ACRE	NON-WOTUS-WETL.NEGATIVE-A7	34.95604600	-89.58671800

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Based on the information obtained in a site inspection and provided in the consultant's delineation report, it has been determined the aquatic resources below do not satisfy the relatively permanent standard, and as such are non-jurisdictional.

Waters_Name	State	Cowardin_Code	Meas_Type	Amount	Units	Waters_Type	Latitude	Longitude
MVK-2022-162 Other Waters 5	MISSISSIPPI	R6	Linear	806.895917	FOOT	NON-WOTUS-TRIB.NEGATIVE-A5	34.95761400	-89.58749700
MVK-2022-162 Other Waters 6	MISSISSIPPI	R6	Linear	422.062444	FOOT	NON-WOTUS-TRIB.NEGATIVE-A5	34.95634600	-89.58680100
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MVK-2022-162 Other Waters 9	MISSISSIPPI	R6	Linear	313.032894	FOOT	NON-WOTUS-TRIB.NEGATIVE-A5	34.96037200	-89.58738900

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. Office determination based on consultant delineation, (HDR Engineering Inc.)
  - b. Previous JD Issued July 14, 2022
  - c. GIS Data (Locally created GIS Database consisting of multiple years of AJD's/PJD's)
  - d. Aerial Photos (Multiple years)
  - e. NHD (National Hydrography Dataset)
  - f. LiDAR (Light imaging, detection, and ranging)
  - g. NWI (National Wetland Inventory)

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- h. ORM Data (OMBIL Regulatory Module)
- i. Google Earth Pro (multiple years of aerial photos)
- j. USGS Quadrangle Maps

10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION.

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.