



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

CEMVK-RD

14 January 2026

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 [MVK-2025-00860](#)

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 [Mississippi](#) 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).

Waters_Nam	State	Cowardin_C	Amount	Units	Meas_Type	Waters_Type	Latitude	Longitude	Label	Project_Nu
Open Water Pond	MISSISSI PPI	L1	0.308682	Acre	Area	NON-JD - PREAMBLE - ART.LAKE.POND	32.536240	-90.040253	Pond 1	MVK-2025-860
Emergent Wetland Jurisdictional	MISSISSI PPI	PEM	9.833675	Acre	Area	A7-AJD.WET L-404	32.533316	-90.040336	PEM 1	MVK-2025-860
Forested Wetland Jurisdictional	MISSISSI PPI	PFO	6.978031	Acre	Area	A7-AJD.WET L-404	32.533271	-90.039080	PFO 1	MVK-2025-860
Forested Wetland Jurisdictional	MISSISSI PPI	PFO	1.293305	Acre	Area	A7-AJD.WET L-404	32.532897	-90.041965	PFO 2	MVK-2025-860
Riverine, Ephemeral	MISSISSI PPI	R6	1651.192267	Foot	Linear	NON-WOTUS-TRIB.NEGATIVE-A5	32.535386	-90.039611	Ephemeral 1	MVK-2025-860
Riverine, Ephemeral	MISSISSI PPI	R6	181.223722	Foot	Linear	NON-WOTUS-TRIB.NEGATIVE-A5	32.535994	-90.040118	Ephemeral 2	MVK-2025-860
Riverine, Upper Perennial	MISSISSI PPI	R3	51.69028	Acre	Linear	A5.TRIB-404	32.531479	-90.041450	Perennial 1	MVK-2025-860
Riverine, Upper Perennial	MISSISSI PPI	R3	55.406324	Acre	Area	A5.TRIB-404	32.531999	-90.040310	Perennial 2	MVK-2025-860

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).

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- 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)
- e. "Memorandum To The Field Between The U.S. Department Of The Army, U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers And The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Concerning The Proper Implementation Of 'Continuous Surface Connection' Under The Definition Of 'Waters Of The United States' Under The Clean Water Act" (March 12, 2025)

3. REVIEW AREA.

- **The subject property is located approximately 5 miles south of the City of Canton, Mississippi and is bordered along the east side by North Old Canton Road. More specifically, the property is situated in Section 13, Township 8 North, Range 2 East, Madison County, Mississippi. (32.534927, -90.040133). The subject property can best be described as a parcel of land containing open pasture, mixed pine-hardwood forest, and a farm pond. An electrical transmission line traverses the parcel in a southwest to northeast orientation.**

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED.

- **The nearest TNW to which the aquatic resources within the review area are connected is the Big Black River (Section 10).**

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

- **The flow path from the project area is generally to the north-northwest via Little Bear Creek for approximately 90 miles to a convergence point with Big Bear Creek continuing for approximately 20 miles to a point of confluence with the Big Black River (Section 10 water).**

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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 [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](#)
 - c. Other Waters (a)(3): [N/A](#)
 - d. Impoundments (a)(4): [N/A](#)
 - e. Tributaries (a)(5):
 - [Perennial 1 and Perennial 2 meet the relatively permanent standard to be a RPW and are therefore considered jurisdictional.](#)

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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Riverine, Upper Perennial	MISSISSI PPI	R3	51.69028	Acre	Linear	A5.TRIB-404	32.53147 9	-90.041450	Perennial 1	MVK-2025-860
Riverine, Upper Perennial	MISSISSI PPI	R3	55.40632 4	Acre	Area	A5.TRIB-404	32.53199 9	-90.040310	Perennial 2	MVK-2025-860

f. The territorial seas (a)(6): **N/A**

g. Adjacent wetlands (a)(7):

PFO 1, PFO 2 and PEM 1 adjacent to and directly abut a requisite water and are therefore jurisdictional.

Forested Wetland Jurisdictional	MISSISSI PPI	PFO	6.978031	Acre	Area	A7-AJD.WETL-404	32.53327 1	-90.039080	PFO 1	MVK-2025-860
Forested Wetland Jurisdictional	MISSISSI PPI	PFO	1.293305	Acre	Area	A7-AJD.WETL-404	32.53289 7	-90.041965	PFO 2	MVK-2025-860
Emergent Wetland Jurisdictional	MISSISSI PPI	PEM	9.833675	Acre	Area	A7-AJD.WETL-404	32.53331 6	-90.040336	PEM 1	MVK-2025-860

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.

- **Pond 1 meets the relatively permanent standard to be considered a preamble water and is therefore non-jurisdictional.**

⁷ 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

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Open Water Pond	MISSISSI PPI	L1	0.308682	Acre	Area	NON-JD - PREAMBL E - ART.LAKE. POND	32.53624 0	-90.040253	Pond 1	MVK-2025-860
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- 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 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).
- **Ephemeral 1 and Ephemeral 2 do not meet the relatively permanent standard to be a RPW and is therefore considered non-jurisdictional.**

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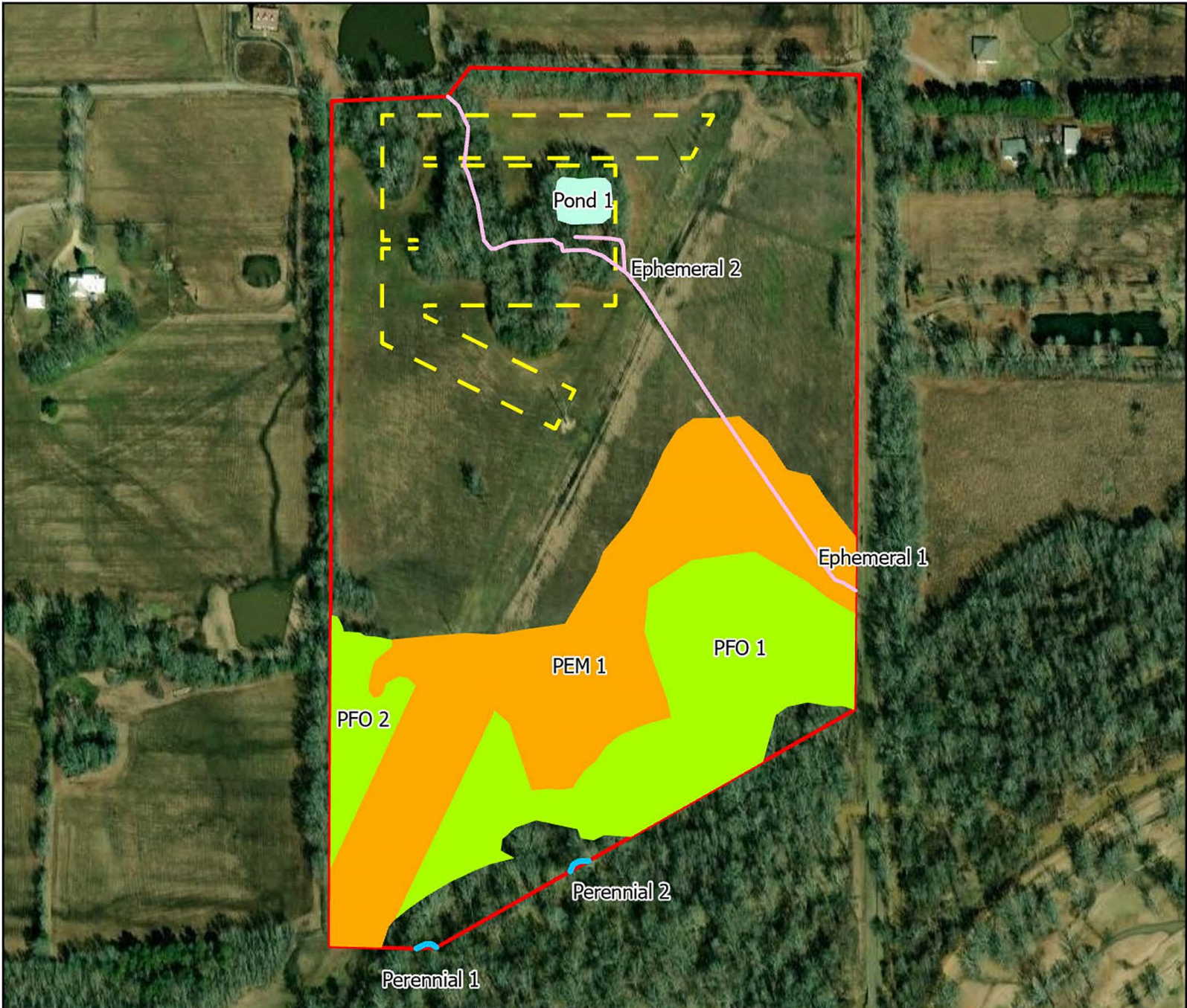
Riverine, Ephemeral	MISSISSIPPI	R6	1651.192 267	Foot	Linear	NON-WOTUS-TRIB.NEGATIVE-A5	32.53538 6	-90.039611	Ephemeral 1	MVK-2025-860
Riverine, Ephemeral	MISSISSIPPI	R6	181.2237 22	Foot	Linear	NON-WOTUS-TRIB.NEGATIVE-A5	32.53599 4	-90.040118	Ephemeral 2	MVK-2025-860

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. [01.13.2026](#)
- b. GIS [01.13.2026](#)
- c. Aerial Photos [01.13.2026](#)
- d. NHD [01.13.2026](#)
- e. NWI [01.13.2026](#)
- f. LiDAR [01.13.2026](#)
- g. Google Earth Pro [01.13.2026](#)
- h. Digital Globe [01.13.2026](#)

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.



14 JANUARY 2026
 MVK-2025-00860
 Deerfield Sowell Substation
 Approved Jurisdictional Determination
 Spencer Dixon & Hayleigh Rogers



US Army Corps of Engineers
 REGULATORY DIVISION
 MISSISSIPPI BRANCH

0 255 510 Feet

- Legend
- Open Water Non-Jurisdictional (0.3 Acres)
 - Property Boundary (50.6 Acres)
 - - - Substation and T Line ROW (6.9 Acres)
 - Emergent Wetland Jurisdictional (9.8 Acres)
 - Forested Wetland Jurisdictional (8.2 Acres)
 - Ephemeral Stream Non-RPW Non-jurisdictional (1832.4')
 - Perennial Stream RPW Jurisdictional (107.1')