



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVE
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118-3651

May 24, 2024

Regulatory Division
Jurisdiction and Enforcement Branch

Mr. Mike Henry
HYDRIK
2323 Highway 190 East, Suite 2
Hammond, LA 70401

Dear Mr. Henry:

Reference is made to your request, on behalf of Mr. Jeff Henderson, for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) jurisdictional determination on property located in Sections 28 and 33, Township 6 South, Range 4 East, Livingston Parish, Louisiana (enclosed map). Specifically, this property is identified as a ± 100 acre site north of Black Mud Road located near Satsuma.

Based on review of recent maps, aerial photography, soils data, the delineation report provided with your request, and a site inspection conducted on November 18, 2023, we have determined that the property consists entirely of uplands and features that are not subject to Corps' jurisdiction. The approximate limits of the uplands and non-jurisdictional features are designated in green and purple, respectively, on the map. A Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will not be required prior to the deposition or redistribution of dredged or fill material on this site.

You are advised that unauthorized activities occurred on this site in waters of the U.S. as defined prior to the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023). Because those waters of the U.S. are no longer jurisdictional after the *Sackett* decision, we will no longer pursue an enforcement action for those unauthorized activities. You are hereby notified that the enforcement action is closed.

The delineation included herein has been conducted to identify the location and extent of the aquatic resources for purposes of the Clean Water Act for the particular site identified in this request. This delineation may not be valid for the Wetland Conservation Provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. If you or your tenant are USDA program participants, or anticipate participation in USDA programs, you should discuss the applicability of an NRCS Certified Wetland Determination with the local USDA service center, prior to starting work.

You and your client are advised that this approved jurisdictional determination is valid for a period of 5 years from the date of this letter unless new information warrants revision prior to the expiration date or the District Commander has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.

If you object to this approved jurisdictional determination, you may request an administrative appeal under Corps regulations at 33 C.F.R. 331. Enclosed you will find a Notification of Appeal Process (NAP) fact sheet and Request for Appeal (RFA) form. If you request to appeal this determination, you must submit a completed RFA form to the Mississippi Valley Division Office at the following address:

Administrative Appeals Review Officer
Mississippi Valley Division
ATTN: CEMVD-PDO
Post Office Box 80 (1400 Walnut Street)
Vicksburg, MS 39181-0080
Phone: 601-634-5820, Fax: 601-634-5816

In order for an RFA to be accepted by the Corps, the Corps must determine that it is complete, that it meets the criteria for appeal under 33 C.F.R. part 331.5, and that it has been received by the Division Office within 60 days of the date of the NAP. Should you decide to submit an RFA form, it must be received at the above address by July 22, 2024.

It is not necessary to submit an RFA form to the Division office if you do not object to the determination in this letter.

Should there be any questions concerning these matters, please contact Mr. Jon Barmore at (504) 862-1704 and reference our Account No. MVN-2020-01160-1-SG.

Sincerely,

Brad

Guarisco




Digitally signed by
Brad Guarisco
Date: 2024.05.24
18:33:23 -05'00'

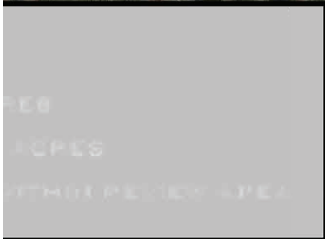
for Martin S. Mayer
Chief, Regulatory Division

Enclosures

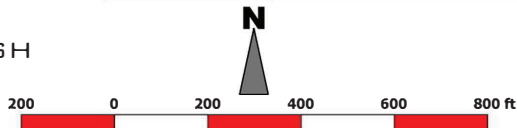
US Army Corps of Engineers
Approved Jurisdictional Determination

USACE
In House, 07 February 2024
BOTANIST Mr. Jon Barmore
FOR Mr. Jeff Henderson
ACCOUNT # MVN-2020-01160-1-SG

 **Non-Jurisdictional**
 **Uplands**
 **JD Review Area**



JEFF HENDERSON
LIVINGSTON PARISH
SATSUMA, LA



AJD REQUEST

FIGURE D
23-165B
DATE: R020724

LSP FIPS 1702 NAD 83
30.48519, -90.80995



PLEASE NOTE: MAP DATA IS FOR REFERENCE ONLY. THIS IS NOT A LEGAL SURVEY AND SHOULD NOT BE USED AS SUCH



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MVN DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVE
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70118

CE-MVN

24-May-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 MVN-2020-01160-1-SG.

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 this state 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.

CE-MVN

SUBJECT: Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), MVN-2020-01160-1-SG

- 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. Ditches/swales ($\pm 5,767$ lf), non-jurisdictional
 - ii. Small Wetland (± 0.9 ac), non-jurisdictional
 - iii. Large wetland (± 9.5 ac), non-jurisdictional

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 review area consists of ± 100 acres of land located at 30.4759, -90.8088 near Satsuma, Livingstone Parish, LA. Location Map and Project Map attached.

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. The nearest TNW to the project site is the Amite River, but the onsite aquatic resources do not flow into it (they are non-jurisdictional).

5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS There is no flowpath, either direct or indirect between the onsite aquatic resources (they are non-jurisdictional). Based on reviews of the site at different times of year and after differing rainfall events, the water appears to settle in the onsite aquatic resources and either evaporate or percolate into groundwater.

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): N/A
 - f. The territorial seas (a)(6): N/A
 - g. Adjacent wetlands (a)(7): N/A

8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

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.

- 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. 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. *The dry drainage ditches/swales are constructed wholly in uplands, drain only uplands, do not contain wetland vegetation, and do not meet the hydrologic regime requirements of intermittent, seasonal, or perennial.*
- 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).

⁷ 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

The large onsite wetland (±9.5 ac) connects to a mostly dry swale/ditch to the south. The southern ditch has multiple flowpaths south, through culverts crossing under a road (Black Mud Road), then across an open field, then into another roadside ditch adjacent to an interstate (I-12).

The Black Mud Road ditch was inspected within 24 hours of a rainfall event and it had small patches of standing water in it, but did not have any flow, was not consistently full of standing water, and had several spots where the bottom elevation of the ditch was the same as the surrounding grade (e.g. the ditch was no longer definable as a discrete feature). This ditch/swale does not provide a continuous surface connection to other aquatic resources.

The flowpaths that exit the Black Mud Road ditch and flow south through culverts and across the open field also have areas within them where the bottom elevation of the ditch is as high or higher than the surrounding land. This was confirmed with site specific elevation surveys of the ditches. Thus, water that flows south toward the interstate appears to rarely make it there unless a rare/extreme storm event causes localized flooding that would also create large-scale overland sheetflow across the adjacent uplands. These flowpaths do not provide continuous surface connections to other aquatic resources.

Thus, water from the large wetland does not have a direct or indirect path to the nearby RPW, nor to any downstream TNW.

The small onsite wetland (±0.9 ac) is isolated from all other aquatic resources by upland expanses that do not have discrete, definable flowpaths in the to allow the water to drain from the wetland to any other aquatic resource. Based on onsite observations, the water contained in the wetland does not flow directly or indirectly into any other aquatic resources, but instead either evaporates or percolates into the groundwater. This wetland does not have a continuous surface connection to any other aquatic resource.

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 evaluation (02/07/2024); Field Reviews (06/23/2021, 10/04/2021, 08/17/2022, 10/18/2023)
 - b. Aerial Photography: Google Earth (1989-2023); ArcGIS (2005-2021); Digital Globe (2020-2024); National Regulatory Viewer (2005-2024)
 - c. Color Infrared Photographs (1998, 2004, 2005, 2010, 2015)
 - d. Web Soil Survey (Livingston Parish)

CE-MVN

SUBJECT: Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), MVN-2020-01160-1-SG

e. USGS Topographic Quad (1:24,000 Walker)

f. LiDAR/DEM – National Regulatory Viewer

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.

NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL OPTIONS AND PROCESS AND REQUEST FOR APPEAL

Applicant: Mr. Mike Henry	File Number: MVN-2020-01160-01-SG	Date: 5/24/2024
Attached is:		See Section below
<input type="checkbox"/>	INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of permission)	A
<input type="checkbox"/>	PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of permission)	B
<input type="checkbox"/>	PERMIT DENIAL WITHOUT PREJUDICE	C
<input type="checkbox"/>	PERMIT DENIAL WITH PREJUDICE	D
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION	E
<input type="checkbox"/>	PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION	F

SECTION I

The following identifies your rights and options regarding an administrative appeal of the above decision. Additional information may be found at <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/appeals/> or Corps regulations at 33 CFR Part 331.

A: INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or object to the permit

- **ACCEPT:** If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.
- **OBJECT:** If you object to the permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may request that the permit be modified accordingly. You must complete Section II of this form and return the form to the district engineer. Upon receipt of your letter, the district engineer will evaluate your objections and may: (a) modify the permit to address all of your concerns, (b) modify the permit to address some of your objections, or (c) not modify the permit having determined that the permit should be issued as previously written. After evaluating your objections, the district engineer will send you a proffered permit for your reconsideration, as indicated in Section B below.

B: PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or appeal the permit

- **ACCEPT:** If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.
- **APPEAL:** If you choose to decline the proffered permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may appeal the declined permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

C. PERMIT DENIAL WITHOUT PREJUDICE: Not appealable

You received a permit denial without prejudice because a required Federal, state, and/or local authorization and/or certification has been denied for activities which also require a Department of the Army permit before final action has been taken on the Army permit application. The permit denial without prejudice is not appealable. There is no prejudice to the right of the applicant to reinstate processing of the Army permit application if subsequent approval is received from the appropriate Federal, state, and/or local agency on a previously denied authorization and/or certification.

D: PERMIT DENIAL WITH PREJUDICE: You may appeal the permit denial

You may appeal the denial of a permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

E: APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You may accept or appeal the approved JD or provide new information for reconsideration

- **ACCEPT:** You do not need to notify the Corps to accept an approved JD. Failure to notify the Corps within 60 days of the date of this notice means that you accept the approved JD in its entirety and waive all rights to appeal the approved JD.
- **APPEAL:** If you disagree with the approved JD, you may appeal the approved JD under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.
- **RECONSIDERATION:** You may request that the district engineer reconsider the approved JD by submitting new information or data to the district engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice. The district will determine whether the information submitted qualifies as new information or data that justifies reconsideration of the approved JD. A reconsideration request does not initiate the appeal process. You may submit a request for appeal to the division engineer to preserve your appeal rights while the district is determining whether the submitted information qualifies for a reconsideration.

F: PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: Not appealable

You do not need to respond to the Corps regarding the preliminary JD. The Preliminary JD is not appealable. If you wish, you may request an approved JD (which may be appealed), by contacting the Corps district for further instruction. Also, you may provide new information for further consideration by the Corps to reevaluate the JD.

POINT OF CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION:

If you have questions regarding this decision you may contact:

S. Gail Gainey
Chief, Jurisdiction and Enforcement Branch
Regulatory Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
7400 Leake Avenue New Orleans, LA 70118
(504) 862-1545

If you have questions regarding the appeal process, or to submit your request for appeal, you may contact:

Brian Oberlies
Administrative Appeals Review Officer
Mississippi Valley Division
P.O. Box 80 (1400 Walnut Street)
Vicksburg, MS 39181-0080
(601) 634-5820 FAX: (601) 634-5816

SECTION II – REQUEST FOR APPEAL or OBJECTIONS TO AN INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT

REASONS FOR APPEAL OR OBJECTIONS: (Describe your reasons for appealing the decision or your objections to an initial proffered permit in clear concise statements. Use additional pages as necessary. You may attach additional information to this form to clarify where your reasons or objections are addressed in the administrative record.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The appeal is limited to a review of the administrative record, the Corps memorandum for the record of the appeal conference or meeting, and any supplemental information that the review officer has determined is needed to clarify the administrative record. Neither the appellant nor the Corps may add new information or analyses to the record. However, you may provide additional information to clarify the location of information that is already in the administrative record.

RIGHT OF ENTRY: Your signature below grants the right of entry to Corps of Engineers personnel, and any government consultants, to conduct investigations of the project site during the course of the appeal process. You will be provided a 15-day notice of any site investigation and will have the opportunity to participate in all site investigations.

Signature of appellant or agent.

Date:

Email address of appellant and/or agent:

Telephone number: