



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, TULSA DISTRICT  
2488 E 81ST STREET  
TULSA, OK 74137-4290

CESWT-RO

04 MAR 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> (SWT-2024-433).

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 this state due to litigation.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

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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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- 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. Intermittent Tributary (IT-1), approximately 1,602 linear feet, jurisdictional, authority under Section 404.
  - ii. Ephemeral stream (ES-1), approximately 750 linear feet, non-jurisdictional, no authority under Section 404/10.
  - iii. Borrow Pit 1, approximately 0.061 acre, non-jurisdictional, no authority under Section 404/10.

## 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 11-acre review area is located in Section 20, Township 6 South, Range 9 East, southwest of the intersection of East 2060 Road and highway 78, near Durant, Bryan County, Oklahoma. Center Coordinates are Latitude: 34.02455, Longitude: -96.37828.

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED: The Red River (Interstate water/TNW).

5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS: The unnamed tributary (IT-1) flows south offsite for approximately 0.4 miles before reaching the confluence of Chuckwa Creek (RPW). Chuckwa Creek flows mostly southeast for approximately 1.8 miles into the confluence of Mineral Bayou (RPW). The Mineral Bayou continues for more than 4.6 miles into the confluence of the Blue River (RPW). The Blue River

flows for approximately 50 miles into the confluence of the Red River (Interstate/TNW).

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.<sup>6</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 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.

Tributaries (a)(5): The intermittent tributary (IT-1) (1,602 linear feet) is not depicted as a blue line tributary on either the USGS Topographic Map or the NWI dataset. However, the aquatic resource report concludes that the stream was delineated along the western edge of the review area and represents the extreme headwater of the aquatic resource.

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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.

<sup>6</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.

Storm water drainages and detention ponds were noted north of the review area which provides contributing surface flow into IT-1. The tributary is dominated by sand, silt, gravel and shale cobble substrates with a mature forested riparian corridor. IT-1 is experiencing downcutting near the southern edge of the review area, which further supports the flow regime. Shallow pools and limited flow were observed during field reconnaissance. IT-1 has been determined as a relatively permanent water, thus meeting the definition of a jurisdictional tributary.

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

f. Adjacent wetlands (a)(7): N/A.

## 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>7</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.
- 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

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<sup>7</sup> 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

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:

- 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 Ephemeral stream (ES-1) (750 linear feet) is not depicted as a blue line feature on the USGS Topographic Map or NWI dataset. However, the aquatic resource report concludes that the stream was delineated along the eastern edge of the study area. The shallow and faintly discernible stream bed was littered with woody debris and leaf litter. No evidence of consistent flow was observed. The feature did not exhibit characteristics of a relatively permanent waterbody. ES-1 drains into a former borrow pit near the southern edge of the study area and potentially is connected to IT-1 outside of the review area via a discrete connection, which is not explicitly evident from review of aerial imagery. Based on the lack of sufficient evidence of flow regime, this feature is a non-relatively permanent water, thus non-jurisdictional

Borrow Pit (0.061 acre) is not depicted as a blue line feature on the USGS Topographic Map or NWI dataset. The borrow pit was recently excavated based on review of aerial imagery dated approximately 2020-2021. The infrequent flow of ES-1 discharges into this pit and likely discharges down gradient via a short segment of ES-1 immediately following storm events. This feature does not meet any criteria as a jurisdictional water and is associated with a Non-RPW. This feature is non-jurisdictional.

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. Lentic and Lotic Waterbody and Wetland Delineation Study, Undeveloped 11 Acres MOL Proposed Residential Development Northeast ¼ of Section 20, Township 6 South, Range 9 East, Bryan County, Oklahoma, Dated August 19, 2024.
  - b. Google Earth/Digital Globe Aerial Imagery (2010-2024)
  - c. USGS Topographic Map Layer (Accessed March 3, 2025)

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d. National Wetland Inventory Maps Layer (Accessed March 3, 2025)

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.

**SWT-2024-433**

**AJD MAP**

