



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

CESWT-RO

29 August 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),¹ SWT-2025-00358

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 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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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).
 - i. OW01, approximately 0.02 acre, **Non-jurisdictional**
 - ii. OW02, approximately 2.33 acre, **Non-jurisdictional**
 - iii. OW03, approximately 1.18 acre, **Non-jurisdictional**
 - iv. OW04, approximately 0.22 acre, **Non-jurisdictional**
 - v. EW01, approximately 0.02 acre, **Non-jurisdictional**
 - vi. EW02, approximately 0.19 acre, **Non-jurisdictional**
 - vii. ES01, approximately 715 linear feet, **Non-jurisdictional**
 - viii. ES02, approximately 683 linear feet, **Non-jurisdictional**
 - ix. SW01, approximately 60 linear feet, **Non-jurisdictional**
 - x. SW02, approximately 661 linear feet, **Non-jurisdictional**
 - xi. SW03, approximately 128 linear feet, **Non-jurisdictional**
 - xii. SW04, approximately 179 linear feet, **Non-jurisdictional**
 - xiii. SW05, approximately 287 linear feet, **Non-jurisdictional**
 - xiv. SW06, approximately 411 linear feet, **Non-jurisdictional**
 - xv. SW07, approximately 205 linear feet, **Non-jurisdictional**
 - xvi. SW08, approximately 436 linear feet, **Non-jurisdictional**

2. REFERENCES.

- a. Final Rule for Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers, 51 FR 41206 (November 13, 1986).

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- 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. 651, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)
3. REVIEW AREA. The review area is comprised of approximately 228 acres located at latitude 36.1306°, longitude -95.5371°, near Inola, Rogers County, Oklahoma.
 4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. The Verdigris River is the nearest downstream TNW (navigable under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899).
 5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS: Waters on the site contribute ephemeral flow downstream to Inola Creek which flows into the Verdigris River, a TNW.
 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

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.

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

- 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.

OW1 (0.03 acre) is an impoundment excavated entirely in the uplands. Hot Dog Lake was not constructed on channel of a jurisdictional tributary and does not contribute relatively permanent flow to a TNW.

OW2 (2.33 acre) is an impoundment excavated entirely in the uplands. Hot Dog Lake was not constructed on channel of a jurisdictional tributary and does not contribute relatively permanent flow to a TNW.

OW3 (1.18 acre) is an impoundment excavated entirely in the uplands. Hot Dog Lake was not constructed on channel of a jurisdictional tributary and does not contribute relatively permanent flow to a TNW.

⁷ 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

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OW4 (0.22 acre) is an impoundment excavated entirely in the uplands. Hot Dog Lake was not constructed on channel of a jurisdictional tributary and does not contribute relatively permanent flow to a TNW.

- 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).

EW01 (0.02 acre) is a non-tidal wetland that lacks a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water. EW-01 is located along the perimeter of upland impoundment OW-01

EW02 (0.19 acre) is a non-tidal emergent wetland that lacks a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water. EW-02 is geographically isolated from all other aquatic resources within the study area.

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ES01 (715 linear feet) is an ephemeral first order stream beginning at an erosional scour within an agricultural field. ES01 lacks characteristics of an RPW, characterized by low volume, infrequent, and short duration flow.

ES02 (683 linear feet) is an ephemeral first order stream beginning below OW03. ES02 exhibits a discontinuous bed and bank and lacks characteristics of an RPW, characterized by low volume, infrequent, and short duration flow.

SW01 (60 linear feet) is an ephemeral swale that lacks a defined bed and bank or OHWM. SW01 does not convey relatively permanent flow to downstream jurisdictional waters.

SW02 (661 linear feet) is an ephemeral swale that begins at a culvert before continuing into the study area. SW02 is grass-lined with erosional scouring throughout the study area. SW02 does not convey relatively permanent flow to downstream jurisdictional waters.

SW03 (128 linear feet) is an ephemeral swale that begins as an erosional scour within the inflow for feature OW02. SW03 does not convey relatively permanent flow to downstream jurisdictional waters.

SW04 (179 linear feet) is an ephemeral swale that has been altered by cattle. SW04 captures runoff from surrounding uplands, but lacks a continuous OHWM. SW04 does not convey relatively permanent flow to downstream jurisdictional waters.

SW05 (287 linear feet) is an ephemeral swale that lacks a defined bed and banks and does not maintain relatively permanent flow to downstream jurisdictional waters.

SW06 (411 linear feet) is an ephemeral, grass-lined swale that lacks a defined bed and banks and OHWM. SW06 primarily conveys sheet flow from OW02 during periods of overflow from the surrounding microtopography. SW06 does not convey relatively permanent flow to downstream jurisdictional waters.

SW07 (205 linear feet) is an ephemeral swale that begins at an erosional scour from the outflow of OW03. The erosional scour loses defined bed and banks before consolidating into ephemeral channel ES02. SW07

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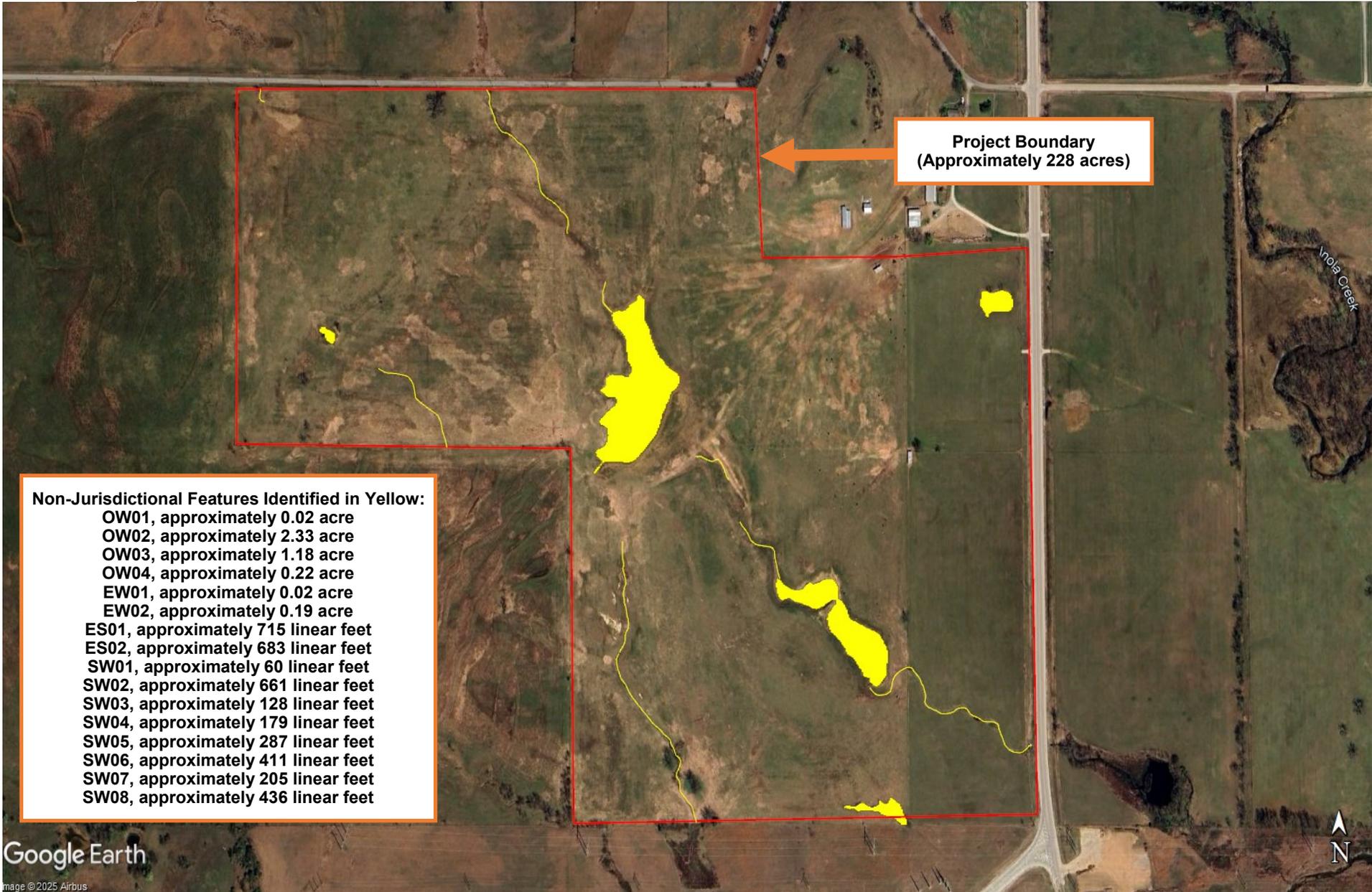
does not convey relatively permanent flow to downstream jurisdictional waters.

SW08 (436 linear feet) is an ephemeral swale that is grass-lined and lacks defined bed and banks or OHWM. SW08 does not convey relatively permanent flow to downstream jurisdictional waters.

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. Site Investigation (August 22, 2025)
 - b. Request for Corps Jurisdictional Determination for Project Greenscale, Inola, Oklahoma (26 August 2025)
 - c. Google Earth/Digital Globe (1995-2025)
 - d. USGS Topographic Map Layer (USA Topo Maps, accessed 25 August 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.



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Approved Jurisdictional Determination
Brett L. Adams



Center Coordinates: latitude: 36.1306 longitude: -95.5371, Rogers County, Oklahoma