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LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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CESWL-RD 9 June 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] SWL-2026-00071

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.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

    a. The review area is comprised entirely of dry land (i.e., there are no waters such as streams, rivers, wetlands, lakes, ponds, tidal waters, ditches, and the like in the entire review area and there are no areas that have previously been determined to be jurisdictional under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 in the review area).

    No aquatic resources, i.e., streams, ponds, ditches, etc., were identified in the applicant's wetland delineation report. Four sampling points, SP01 through SP04, were taken across the site and none of the four sampling points met all three wetland indicators necessary for wetland classification. Remote resources identified in Section 9 below were utilized to validate these findings.

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. 651, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)

3. REVIEW AREA. This review area totals approximately 1-acre within the upper watershed of Osage Creek in the Illinois River watershed (USGS HUC12, 111101030303), in Section 19 of Township 19 North and Range 29 West. The property is on South "D" Street, Rogers, Benton County, Arkansas (Lat 36.3005 Long -94.11123).

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. Illinois River[5]

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

[5] This MFR should not be used to complete a new stand-alone TNW determination. A stand-alone TNW determination for a water that is not subject to Section 9 or 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA) is completed independently of a request for an AJD. A stand-alone TNW determination is conducted for a specific segment of river or stream or other type of waterbody, such as a lake, where upstream or downstream limits or lake borders are established.

generally southwestward through a series of storm sewers and detention ponds before draining into a relatively permanent tributary of Osage Creek. Osage Creek drains into the Illinois River, which becomes a TNW northeast of Tahlequah, Oklahoma (Lat/Long 36.040570, -94.904086).

6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS[6]: 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] 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

[6] 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.

[7] 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.

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").[8] 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 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). N/A

[8] 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

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. Desktop evaluations conducted by USACE Regulatory personnel on June 9, 2026.

   b. Imagery viewed using the Corps National Regulatory Viewer (NRV), which references the following resources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, USGS, EPA, USDA, iPaC, State of Florida, Maxar, Microsoft, accessed June 9, 2026.

   c. USFWS, National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Mapper, June 9, 2026.

   d. USGS 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) Bare Earth DEM, June 9, 2026.

   e. Web Soil Survey, https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/accessed, June 9, 2026.

   f. Google Earth Pro (years of record 1994-2025), June 9, 2026.

   g. The agent conducted a delineation report, dated February 4, 2026, in which they included pertinent information such as a formal delineation report, figures, drainage point data sheets, and photos of observed features.

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.

Legend:

Project Site

Site Location

Figure: 1

Project: **Habitat for Humanity of NW AR, South "D" Street**

Approved: [redacted]

Date: February 4, 2026

N

0 100 200 Feet

0 25 50 Meters

Scale: 1:1,500 / Spatial ReferenceName: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 15N

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Legend:

- Project Site
- Brick Path
- Upland Sampling Point
- OFFSITE Culvert

Field Data

Figure: 2

Project: Habitat for Humanity of NW AR, South "D" Street

Approved: [redacted]

Date: February 4, 2026

N

0 50 100 Feet

0 12.5 25 Meters

Scale: 1:750 / Spatial ReferenceName: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 15N

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