

MVP

SUBJECT: 2023 Rule, as amended, Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), MVP-2025-00777-ALH

MVP

October 27, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Approved Jurisdictional Determination in accordance with the “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’”; (88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) as amended by the “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’; Conforming” (8 September 2023) ,¹ MVP-2025-00777-ALH [[MFR 2 of 2](#)]²

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.³ 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.⁴

On January 18, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army (“the agencies”) published the “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States,’” 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) (“2023 Rule”). On September 8, 2023, the agencies published the “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’; Conforming”, which amended the 2023 Rule to conform to the 2023 Supreme Court decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S., 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023) (“*Sackett*”).

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),⁵ the 2023 Rule as amended,

¹ While the Revised Definition of “Waters of the United States”; Conforming 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 When documenting aquatic resources within the review area that are jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act (CWA), use an additional MFR and group the aquatic resources on each MFR based on the TNW, the territorial seas, or interstate water that they are connected to. Be sure to provide an identifier to indicate when there are multiple MFRs associated with a single AJD request (i.e., number them 1, 2, 3, etc.).

³ 33 CFR 331.2.

⁴ Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

⁵ 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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as well as other applicable guidance, relevant case law, and longstanding practice in evaluating jurisdiction.

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).

Name of Aquatic Resource	JD or Non-JD	Section 404/Section 10
Part of Wetland Area 1	Non-Jurisdictional	N/A

2. REFERENCES.

- a. “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States,’” 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) (“2023 Rule”)
- b. “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’; Conforming” 88 FR 61964 (September 8, 2023))
- c. *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S. 651, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)
- d. “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.

- a. Project Are Size (in acres): 3.8 acres
- b. Location Description: The project/review area is located in Section 31, Township 22N, Range 18E, Outagamie County, Wisconsin.
- c. Center Coordinates of the Project Site (in decimal degrees)
Latitude: 44.339080 Longitude: -88.359700
- d. Nearest City or Town: Appleton
- e. County: Outagamie
- f. State: Wisconsin
- g. Other associated Jurisdictional Determinations (including outcomes): N/A

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4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. [N/A]⁶
5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER. [N/A]
6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁷: 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 10.⁸
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 2023 Rule as amended, 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 2023 Rule as amended. 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. [N/A]
 - a. Traditional Navigable Waters (TNWs) (a)(1)(i): N/A
 - b. The Territorial Seas (a)(1)(ii): N/A

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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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c. Interstate Waters (a)(1)(iii): N/A

d. Impoundments (a)(2): N/A

e. Tributaries (a)(3): N/A

f. Adjacent Wetlands (a)(4): N/A

g. Additional Waters (a)(5): N/A

8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

- a. Describe aquatic resources and other features within the review area identified in the 2023 Rule as amended as not “waters of the United States” even where they otherwise meet the terms of paragraphs (a)(2) through (5). Include the type of excluded aquatic resource or feature, the size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to meet one of the exclusions listed in 33 CFR 328.3(b).⁹ [According to multiple years of the Wisconsin Historic Aerial Imagery Finder, part of Wetland Area 1 (as indicated on the attached figures) was constructed by excavating dry land between or through active agricultural fields. The National Wetland Inventory Layer of the National Regulatory Viewer does not indicate a presence of wetlands where this part of Wetland Area 1 is located. A review of recent field photographs indicates that the “waterway” associated with part of Wetland Area 1 is currently a grassed ditch feature. This existing drainage feature lacks bed, bank and Ordinary High-Water Mark characteristics and therefore is not considered a waterway. Multiple years of aerial imagery show there is not a relatively permanent flow of water in this grassed ditch since there is a lack of darkness which would indicate a presence of water. This part of Wetland Area 1 is an excluded constructed linear ditch.

This part of the wetland fits under the definition of a b(3) water, from 33 CFR 328.3(b) as it is a linear ditch excavated in and draining only dry land and does not carry a relative permanent flow of water.]

- b. 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 2023 Rule as amended (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]

⁹ 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023)

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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 was conducted on October 16, 2025.]
- b. [Wetland Delineation Report Apple Creek Road & N. French Road by Martenson & Eisele, Inc. dated October 16 & 17th, 2023 Site Visit.]
- c. [National Regulatory Viewer – USA Soils Hydric Class layer, National Wetland Inventory layer, Hillshade layer, DEM layer and WNDN Imagery 2022, 2020 and 2015 accessed on August 6, 2025.]
- d. [Wisconsin Historic Aerial Imagery Finder (1938, 1957, 1964, 1982, and 1992) accessed August 27, 2025.]
- e. [8846 Photo Log for Apple Tree Appleton Five by Davel Engineering & Environmental, Inc. submitted October 7, 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.



Appendix B

Surveyed Wetland Boundary

Parcel ID No. 311920200
Section 31, T22N, R18E
City of Appleton
Outagamie County, Wisconsin

For: Apple Hill Farms Development LLC

Legend

- Boring Locations
- Wetlands
- Wetland Line
- Approximate Site Location
- ~ Waterways

WETLAND AREA 1 = 891,698 S.F. (20.471 AC)
WETLAND AREA 2 = 23,699.50 S.F. (0.544 AC)
WETLAND AREA 3 = 3,466.32 S.F. (0.080 AC)
WETLAND AREA 4 = 6,409.04 S.F. (0.147 AC)
WETLAND AREA 5 = 1,469.67 S.F. (0.034 AC)
WETLAND AREA 6 = 1,524.68 S.F. (0.035 AC)
WETLAND AREA 7 = 1,314.20 S.F. (0.030 AC)

TOTAL SITE AREA = 7,436,350 S.F. (170.715 AC)

NOTE: AERIALS ARE NOT TIED TO COUNTY COORDINATES AND PHOTOS ARE APPROXIMATE. (FOR REFERENCE USE ONLY)



Scale 1" = 400'

0 100 200 400 600 800 Feet

This base map information was obtained from the Outagamie County Land Information Department and is intended to be used as a reference. They assume no liability for the accuracy of this map or its use or misuse.

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