



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST. PAUL DISTRICT  
332 MINNESOTA STREET, SUITE E1500  
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1323

MVP

22 May 2024

**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),<sup>1</sup> [MVP-2024-00403-KDZ MFR 1 of 1](#)

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>

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),<sup>4</sup> the 2023 Rule as amended, as well as other applicable guidance, relevant case law, and longstanding practice in evaluating jurisdiction.

**1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.**

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<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. [Wetland 1 \(w01\) \(0.004 acre\), non-jurisdictional](#)

## 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. \_\_, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)

3. REVIEW AREA. [The review area is limited to Wetland 1 \(w01\) as shown on the attached Figure 1. The review area is located at 46.564302, -91.915333 in the Town of Superior, Douglas County, Wisconsin. There are no other JDs associated with the review area.](#)

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. [N/A](#)

5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER. [N/A](#)

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

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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.

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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 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.

- a. Traditional Navigable Waters (TNWs) (a)(1)(i): [N/A](#)
- b. The Territorial Seas (a)(1)(ii): [N/A](#)
- 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

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<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.

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exclusions listed in 33 CFR 328.3(b).<sup>7</sup> Wetland 1 (w01) was identified in the January 2024, Merjent, Inc. Wetland and Waterbody Determination Report as being situated within the bottom of a roadside ditch on the west side of S. Western Road. Wo1 contains hydrophytic vegetation, however, it lacks hydric soil field indicators and is not associated with a stream or other waterway that would provide a surface connection to a water of the U.S. A review of the USGS Topo Map, NHD layer, USDA Soil Mapping, and Wisconsin Wetland Inventory, all indicate that wo1 was created within an upland constructed ditch that drains only uplands and does not have a surface connection to any nearby waterway. Accordingly, the Corps has determined that Wetland 1 (w01) is excluded from Section 404 jurisdiction under (b)(3) of the 2023 Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’; Conforming” 88 FR 61964 Final Rule as ditches (including roadside ditches) excavated wholly in and draining only dry land and that do not carry a relatively 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).
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 conducted on May 22, 2024.
  - b. January 2024, Merjent, Inc. Wetland and Waterbody Determination Report.
  - c. Wisconsin Wetland Inventory, USDA Web Soil Survey, USGS NHD, USGS Topographic Maps, WDNR Surface Water Data Viewer, USACE National Regulatory Viewer.
  - d. Google Earth imagery dated 1999, 2010, 2011, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022. Accessed May 22, 2024.

## 10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. N/A

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<sup>7</sup> 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023)

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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.





- 1) Northern will place construction matting, as needed, to provide access across the wetland road ditch.
- 2) Temporary fill will be approximately 0.004 acre.
- 3) Temporary matting will be removed immediately upon completion of pipeline verification activities.

FID 6121

w01

S Western Rd

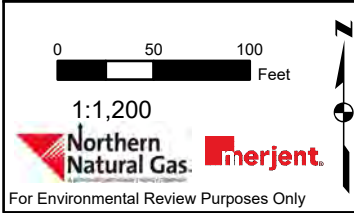
1030

1040

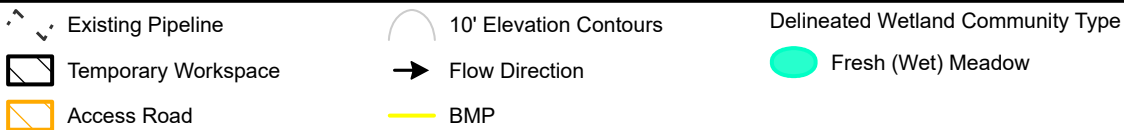
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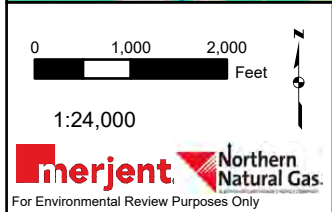
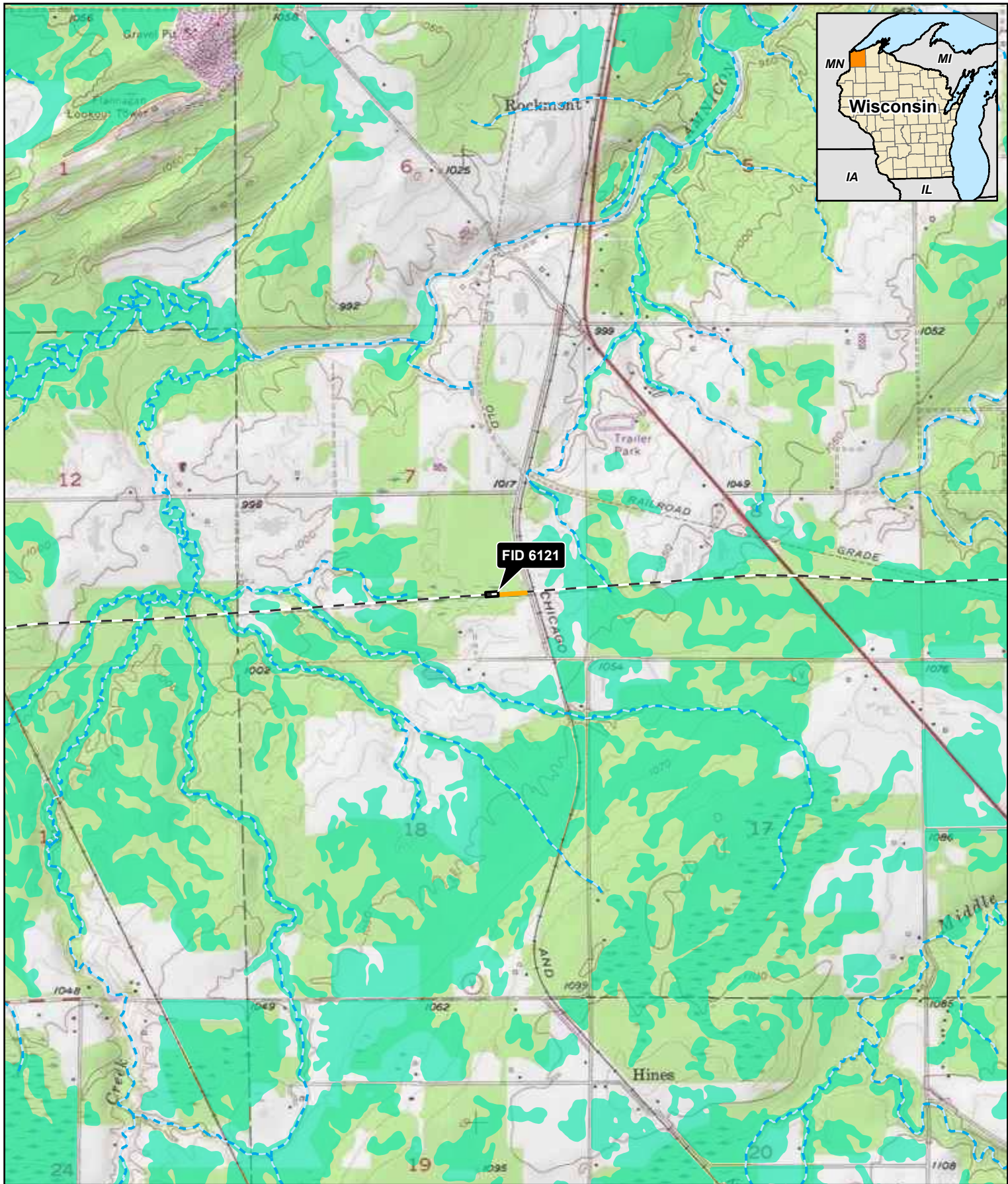
1030



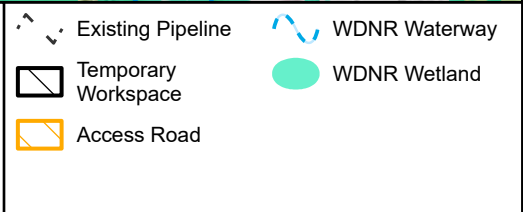
**Figure 2:**  
**OO142181-M432B-20-I-Dig23**  
**Carlton-Iron River B-EMAT FID 6121**  
**Site Plan**  
**Northern Natural Gas**  
**Douglas County, Wisconsin**







**Figure 1:**  
**OO142181-M432B-20-I-Dig23**  
**Carlton-Iron River B-EMAT FID 6121**  
**Site Location**  
**Northern Natural Gas**  
**Douglas County, Wisconsin**







0 50 100  
Feet  
1 inch = 100 feet



**Figure 3: SSURGO Soil Type**  
**OO142181-M432B-20-I-Dig23 Carlton-Iron River B-EMAT**  
**FID 6121**  
**Northern Natural Gas**  
**Douglas County, Wisconsin**



Survey Area



Hydric Soil



Non-Hydric Soil







050100

Feet

1 inch = 100 feet

**Figure 5: Wetland and Waterbody Determination**

**OO142181-M432B-20-I-Dig23 Carlton-Iron River B-EMAT**

**FID 6121**

**Northern Natural Gas**

**Douglas County, Wisconsin**

Survey Area

Photo Point

Wetland Data Point

Community Type (Eggers & Reed)

Fresh (Wet) Meadow

For Environmental Review Purposes Only

Date: (1/30/2024)

Source: Z:\Clients\ML\_P\Norman\_Natural\_Gas\Operations\_and\_Maintenance\2023\MA32B\_20\Dig23\_Carlton\_IronRiverB\_EMAT\ArcGIS\Biological\001\_ArcPro\MA32B-20-I-Dig23\_Carlton-Iron River B-EMAT.aprx - Map: Delineation