



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SWF DISTRICT
819 TAYLOR STREET
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102

CESWF-RD

15 July 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 [SWF-2025-00311](#).

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 Texas](#) 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. [Ditch-1, 33.532652, -101.837748, non-jurisdictional](#)

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. [The site is located southwest of Ash Avenue and 66th street in the city of Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas. It is just south of an existing switch station. The site is approximately 3.2 acres of predominantly rangeland with scattered trees with an unpaved roadway on the north side separating the site from the switch station that contains a man-made ditch. Center coordinates area 33.532652, -101.837748. The topography ranges from 3,187 feet to 3,192 feet above mean sea level. No features were indicated on the NWI, NHD, USGS topography or FEMA maps. Per FEMA the entire site is in Zone X, outside of the 100-year floodplain. Contractor's site visit yielded a recently built ditch \(Ditch-1\) in the middle of the unpaved roadway. No other aquatic features were found on site.](#)

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

5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS [Upland drainage to a storm retention pond which is a modified playa lake.](#)

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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 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](#)

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.

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. [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).

⁷ 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

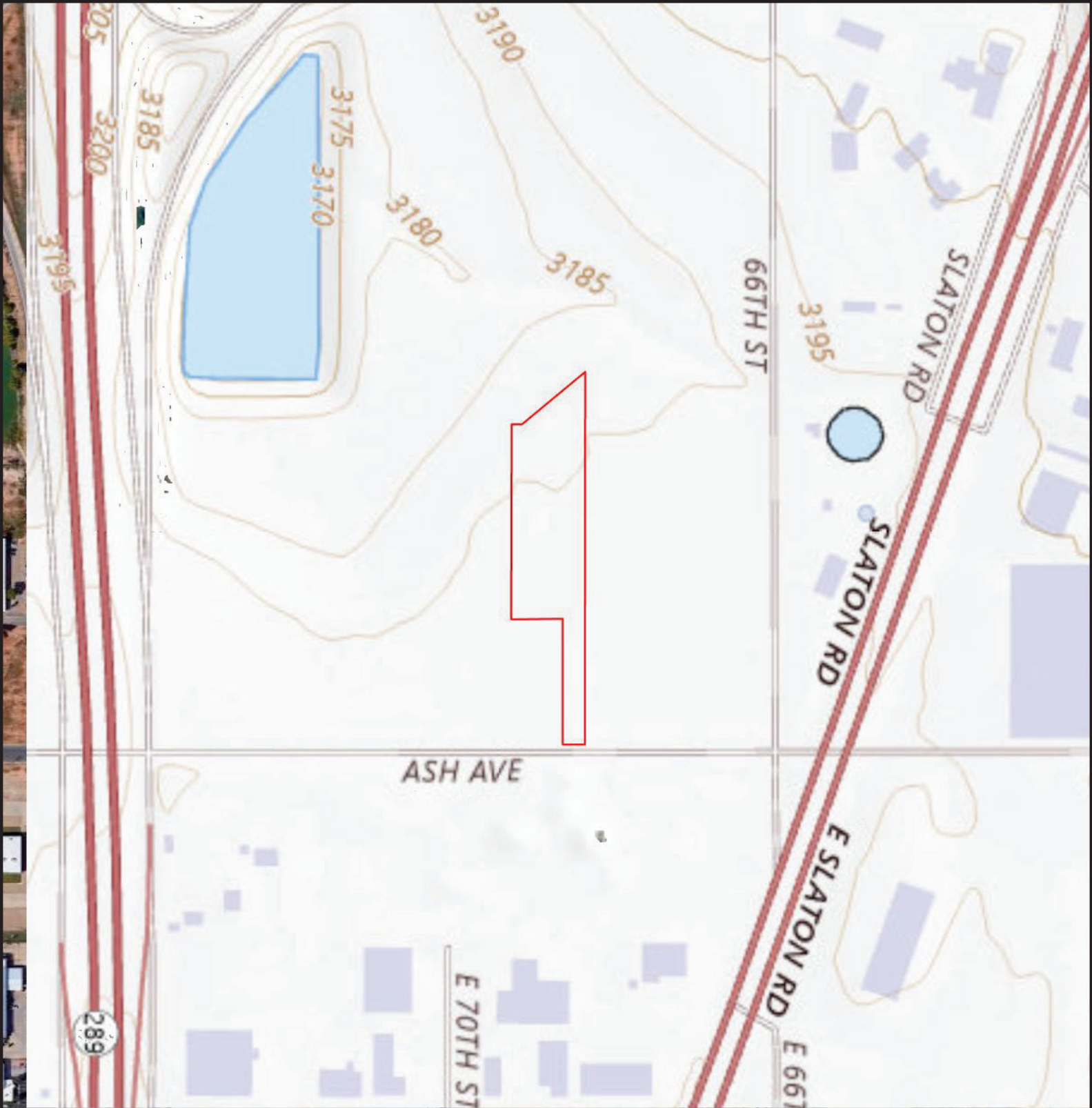
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Ditch-1, Coordinates 33.532803,-101.837427, 990 LF, not jurisdictional

D-1 is a recently excavated (2023) linear ditch which transects the northern side of the subject property from east to west. It appears to have been created to drain runoff from Ash Avenue. This feature is not identified within topo maps, the NWI, or the NHD and is only visible in 2023 aerial imagery onward. This feature is disconnected from all other nearby features. Because of lack of connectivity and excavation in uplands, D-1 is isolated and 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. Contractor's site visit was on June 19, 2025; USACE office evaluation was conducted on July 15, 2025.
 - b. USGS topographic layer and aerials, Google Earth, July 15, 2015,
 - c. National Regulatory Viewer, layers NWI, NHD, HUC, FEMA and Hillshade, July 15, 2015.
10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. [Delineation report for Jurisdictional Wetlands Assessment & T&E Assessment, Prairie Dog BESS Site \(Tract H\)](#), dated June 25, 2025 by UES (Formerly InControl Technologies).
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

 Property Boundary



Approximate Scale (feet)

UES

14731 Pebble Bend Drive
Houston, Texas 77068
(281) 580-8892 FAX (281) 580-8853

**Site Location Map
USGS Topographic Map**

SITE:		Prairie Dog BESS Site		PM:	AI	
LOCATION:		Lubbock, Texas		CHECKED:	AI	
DESIGNED:	6/25/2025	AI	PROJECT NO.:	E24088-102	FIGURE:	2



LEGEND

- Property Boundary
- Freshwater Pond (PUBHX)



Approximate Scale (feet)

UES

14731 Pebble Bend Drive
 Houston, Texas 77068
 (281) 580-8892 FAX (281) 580-8853

**National Wetland
 Inventory Map**

SITE:		Prairie Dog BESS Site		PM:	AI
LOCATION:		Lubbock, Texas		CHECKED:	AI
DETAILED:	DESIGNED:	PROJECT NO.:	FIGURE:		
6/25/2025	AI	E24088-102	4		



LEGEND

 Property Boundary



Approximate Scale (feet)

UES

14731 Pebble Bend Drive
Houston, Texas 77068
(281) 580-8892 FAX (281) 580-8853

USGS Hydrography Map

SITE:		Prairie Dog BESS Site		PM:	AI
LOCATION:		Lubbock, Texas		CHECKED:	AI
DETAILED:	DESIGNED:	PROJECT NO.:	FIGURE:		
6/25/2025	AI	E24088-102	5		



LEGEND

 Property Boundary



Approximate Scale (feet)

UES

14731 Pebble Bend Drive
Houston, Texas 77068
(281) 580-8892 FAX (281) 580-8853

FEMA NFHL Viewer Map
FIRM Panel No. 48303C0315G

SITE:	Prairie Dog BESS Site		PK#:	AI	
LOCATION:	Lubbock, Texas		CHECKED:	AI	
DESIGNED:	AI	PROJECT NO.:	E24088-102	FIGURE:	6
DATE:	6/25/2025	DESIGNED:	AI	PROJECT NO.:	E24088-102



LEGEND

- Property Boundary
- Ditch (D-#)



Approximate Scale (feet)

UES

14731 Pebble Bend Drive
 Houston, Texas 77068
 (281) 580-8892 FAX (281) 580-8853

Estimated Wetland and Waterbody Feature Boundaries

SITE:		PM:	
Prairie Dog BESS Site		AI	
LOCATION:			
Lubbock, Texas		CHECKED:	
		AI	
DESIGNED:	PROJECT NO.:	FIGURE:	
6/25/2025	E24088-102	7	

st

66th St

Ash Ave



33.532652, -101.837748



66th St

66th St



33.532652, -101.837748

Ash Ave

Ash Ave

Stalon Rd

Radix

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