



**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
REGULATORY PROGRAM  
APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM (INTERIM)  
NAVIGABLE WATERS PROTECTION RULE**

**I. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

Completion Date of Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD): 3/1/2021

ORM Number: SAM-2018-00031-JMT

Associated JDs: N/A

Review Area Location<sup>1</sup>: State/Territory: Mississippi City: Columbus County/Parish/Borough: Lowndes

Center Coordinates of Review Area: Latitude 33.65659 Longitude -88.47279

**II. FINDINGS**

**A. Summary:** Check all that apply. At least one box from the following list MUST be selected. Complete the corresponding sections/tables and summarize data sources.

- The review area is comprised entirely of dry land (i.e., there are no waters or water features, including wetlands, of any kind in the entire review area). Rationale: N/A or describe rationale.
- There are “navigable waters of the United States” within Rivers and Harbors Act jurisdiction within the review area (complete table in Section II.B).
- There are “waters of the United States” within Clean Water Act jurisdiction within the review area (complete appropriate tables in Section II.C).
- There are waters or water features excluded from Clean Water Act jurisdiction within the review area (complete table in Section II.D).

**B. Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 Section 10 (§ 10)<sup>2</sup>**

§ 10 Name	§ 10 Size	§ 10 Criteria	Rationale for § 10 Determination
N/A.	N/A.	N/A.	N/A.

**C. Clean Water Act Section 404**

Territorial Seas and Traditional Navigable Waters ((a)(1) waters): <sup>3</sup>			
(a)(1) Name	(a)(1) Size	(a)(1) Criteria	Rationale for (a)(1) Determination
N/A.	N/A.	N/A.	N/A.

Tributaries ((a)(2) waters):			
(a)(2) Name	(a)(2) Size	(a)(2) Criteria	Rationale for (a)(2) Determination
N/A.	N/A.	N/A.	N/A.

Lakes and ponds, and impoundments of jurisdictional waters ((a)(3) waters):			
(a)(3) Name	(a)(3) Size	(a)(3) Criteria	Rationale for (a)(3) Determination
N/A.	N/A.	N/A.	N/A.

Adjacent wetlands ((a)(4) waters):			
(a)(4) Name	(a)(4) Size	(a)(4) Criteria	Rationale for (a)(4) Determination
N/A.	N/A.	N/A.	N/A.

<sup>1</sup> Map(s)/figure(s) are attached to the AJD provided to the requestor.

<sup>2</sup> If the navigable water is not subject to the ebb and flow of the tide or included on the District’s list of Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 navigable waters list, do NOT use this document to make the determination. The District must continue to follow the procedure outlined in 33 CFR part 329.14 to make a Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 navigability determination.

<sup>3</sup> A stand-alone TNW determination 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. A stand-alone TNW determination should be completed following applicable guidance and should NOT be documented on the AJD Form.



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**D. Excluded Waters or Features**

Excluded waters ((b)(1) – (b)(12)): <sup>4</sup>				
Exclusion Name	Exclusion Size		Exclusion <sup>5</sup>	Rationale for Exclusion Determination
SAC Lake	3	acre(s)	(b)(8) Artificial lake/pond constructed or excavated in upland or a non-jurisdictional water, so long as the artificial lake or pond is not an impoundment of a jurisdictional water that meets (c)(6).	The lake/pond in the JD review area (SAC Lake) is a remnant aggregate mining pond left on Air Force Base property after the termination of past mining activities. The lake/pond is located within the mapped 100-year floodplain of the Buttahatchee River, an (a)(1) water, and is within approximately 0.35-mile of an apparent (a)(2) ditch tributary to the Buttahatchee River; however, the lake/pond was observed in the field by USACE staff to be surrounded by non-hydric, upland soils, and no bed and bank surface channels were observed to flow into or from the lake/pond to connect it to downstream (a)(1) or (a)(2) waters. There was also no observed evidence of drift deposits (wreck lines, debris rafting), sediment deposits, bent or flow damaged vegetation, or water marks on vegetation indicative of routine or prolonged inundation by flooding from (a)(1) or (a)(2) waters. SAC Lake appears to have been excavated from an upland area.

**III. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**A. Select/enter all resources** that were used to aid in this determination and attach data/maps to this document and/or references/citations in the administrative record, as appropriate.

Information submitted by, or on behalf of, the applicant/consultant: [Maps dated November 2020 developed on behalf of Columbus AFB by Gulf South Research Corporation \(GSRC\).](#)

This information is sufficient for purposes of this AJD.

Rationale: [N/A](#)

Data sheets prepared by the Corps: [Title\(s\) and/or date\(s\).](#)

Photographs: [Aerial: Downloaded from GoogleEarth dated 12/28/2002, 5/14/2003, 8/14/2004, 6/7/2006, 8/7/2007, 9/2/2010, 1/18/2013, and 10/31/2016](#)

Corps site visit(s) conducted on: [20 October 2020](#)

Previous Jurisdictional Determinations (AJDs or PJDs): [MSJ92-01867-W \(21 Aug 1992\), MSJ02-02319-D/SAM-2002-02319-JMT \(11 Sep 2002, 4 Mar 2009, 20 Jul 2015, 10 Jan 2019\); SAM-2018-00031-JMT \(10 Jan 2019\)](#)

Antecedent Precipitation Tool: [provide detailed discussion in Section III.B.](#)

USDA NRCS Soil Survey: [Web Soil Survey Map Version 13, June 3, 2020, Lowndes County, Mississippi, downloaded from http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov.](#)

<sup>4</sup> Some excluded waters, such as (b)(2) and (b)(4), may not be specifically identified on the AJD form unless a requestor specifically asks a Corps district to do so. Corps districts may, in case-by-case instances, choose to identify some or all of these waters within the review area.

<sup>5</sup> Because of the broad nature of the (b)(1) exclusion and in an effort to collect data on specific types of waters that would be covered by the (b)(1) exclusion, four sub-categories of (b)(1) exclusions were administratively created for the purposes of the AJD Form. These four sub-categories are not new exclusions, but are simply administrative distinctions and remain (b)(1) exclusions as defined by the NWPR.



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- USFWS NWI maps: [NWI map downloaded from https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/mapper.html](https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/mapper.html)
- USGS topographic maps: [Hamilton, MS 1:24,000; 7.5 Minute USGS topographic quadrangle](#)

**Other data sources used to aid in this determination:**

Data Source (select)	Name and/or date and other relevant information
<a href="#">USGS/WBD/NHD data/maps</a>	<a href="#">The National Map Advanced Viewer – NHD dataset layer; https://viewer.nationalmap.gov/advanced-viewer/</a>
<a href="#">USDA Sources</a>	N/A.
<a href="#">NOAA Sources</a>	N/A.
<a href="#">USACE Sources</a>	N/A.
<a href="#">State/Local/Tribal Sources</a>	N/A.
<a href="#">FEMA/FIRM maps</a>	<a href="#">FEMA FIRMette from Map #01117C0211E effective 2/20/2013 downloaded from https://hazards-fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html</a>

**B. Typical year assessment(s):** On the USACE site visit date (20 Oct 2020) no inundation or soil saturation was observed beyond the limits of the normal pool elevation of SAC Lake. APT tool analysis for the USACE site visit date indicates the site visit was conducted during conditions of normal wetness although identified as being during the wet season and during a period of time in which the drought index for the Columbus, MS region was registering severe wetness. More specifically mid-July through mid-September precipitation had been below the 30-year normal range totals while precipitation from mid-September through the date of site visit (20 Oct 2020) were above the 30-year normal range. Based on the information obtained from the APT tool in conjunction with site observations, it is anticipated that if any surface flow from SAC Lake to the nearest downstream (a)(2) and (a)(1) waters occurred in a typical year, it would have been observable during the wetness circumstances at the time of the site visit; however, no surface flow connectivity was observed.

**C. Additional comments to support AJD:** SAC Lake is a remnant mine pit left on Air Force Base property from historic aggregate mining activities that have been occurring in the geographic area for multiple decades. SAC Lake was evaluated for potential jurisdiction as soil survey data suggests the mining activities that led to the creation of the pit that is now SAC Lake may have been located in what would have been jurisdictional wetlands adjacent to the Buttahatchee River [(a)(1) water] at the time the mining was conducted. Field review found that the land area immediately surrounding SAC Lake does not consist of wetlands nor tributaries/ditches flowing away from the lake/pond to downstream waters and is not inundated by flooding from downstream waters in a typical year. Areas of temporary inundation that are visible near SAC Lake in some aerial photos taken in winter and spring months are the result of a combination of seasonal high groundwater table and increased wet season precipitation ponding in other shallower mine scars that remain on the property from past mining activities rather than being the result of flooding from (a)(1) through (a)(3) waters and were not found to possess all three parameters (hydric soils, hydric vegetation, and hydrology) required to be determined wetland.

Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination dated July 20, 2015 and addendum dated January 10, 2019 for the larger AFB property remain in effect. This AJD specifically addresses SAC Lake, which was inadvertently omitted from those previous JD evaluations.