



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
NORTH DAKOTA REGULATORY OFFICE
3319 UNIVERSITY DRIVE
BISMARCK ND 58504

September 2, 2026

SUBJECT: NWO-2026-996-BIS – Minnesota Power – Approved Jurisdictional Determination.

Merjent, Inc.
Attn: Kyle Hanson
1 Main Street SE, Suite 300
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

Dear Mr. Hanson:

This letter is in response to your request for a Department of the Army (DA), Corps of Engineers (Corps) approved jurisdictional determination (AJD), on behalf of Minnesota Power. The AJD was completed for an approximate 2.12-acre delineated wetland for the Longspur Wind Project. The project area is located in the SE¼ of Section 1, Township 140 North, Range 88 West, Morton County, North Dakota.

The Corps regulates the discharge of dredged and fill materials into waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. 1344) and structures or work in, over, and under navigable waters of the United States under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) (33 U.S.C. 403). The implementing regulations for these Acts are published in the Code of Federal Regulations at 33 CFR parts 330-332.

Based on our evaluation of the information provided and other available information, we have determined that the 1-field delineated wetland identified in your request is **not** a jurisdictional water of the United States. The attached AJD memorandum for record provides rationale for why the aquatic resource does not meet the definition of waters of the United States. This determination does not eliminate the requirement that you obtain any other applicable Federal, state, tribal or local permits as required.

Attached to this letter is the approved jurisdictional determination for the project site. This jurisdictional determination is valid for a 5-year period from the date of this letter, until **September 2, 2031**, unless new information warrants revision of the determination before the expiration date. If you object to this determination, you may request an administrative appeal under Corps regulations at 33 CFR part 331. Enclosed you will find a *Notification of Administrative Appeal Options and Process and Request for Appeal* (NAO-RFA) form. If you request to appeal this determination, you must submit a completed NAO-RFA form to the address listed on the form.

For an NAO-RFA to be accepted by the Corps, the Corps must determine that it is complete, that it meets the criteria for appeal under 33 CFR 331.5, and that it has been received by the Division Office within 60 days of the date of the NAO-RFA. Should you decide to submit an NAO-RFA form, it must be received at the Division Office by **November 1, 2026**. It is not necessary to submit an NAO-RFA form to the Division Office if you do not object to the determination in this letter.

In the event that you disagree with this approved jurisdictional determination and you have new information not considered in the original determination, you may request reconsideration of this determination by contacting this office prior to initiating an appeal. To request this reconsideration based upon new information, you must submit the new information to this office so that it is received within 60 days of the date of the NAO-RFA.

The Omaha District, Regulatory Branch is committed to providing quality and timely service to our customers. In an effort to improve customer service, please take a moment to complete our Customer Service Survey found on our website at <https://regulatory.ops.usace.army.mil/customer-service-survey/>. If you do not have Internet access, you may call and request a paper copy of the survey that you can complete and return to us by mail or fax.

If you have any questions concerning this determination or jurisdiction, please feel free to contact Mr. Jason Renschler of this office at (701) 255-0015 ext. 6429 and reference project number **NWO-2026-996-BIS**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JR' with a stylized flourish.

Jason Renschler
Senior Project Manager
North Dakota

Enclosures
- MFR for AJD
- appeal form



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NWO DISTRICT
NORTH DAKOTA REGULATORY OFFICE
3319 UNIVERSITY DRIVE
BISMARCK, ND 58504

CENWO-RGO

September 2, 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 [NWO-2026-996-BIS](#)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 For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),⁵ 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

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 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, interstate water, or territorial seas 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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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 North Dakota due to litigation.

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. [Wetland 1 \(dp065\): not jurisdictional, not a water of the U.S.](#)

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

3. REVIEW AREA. [There is 1 field delineated wetland in the review area, located in the SE¼ of Section 1, Township 140 North, Range 88 West, Morton County, North Dakota. Lat. 46.968598; Long. -101.719247](#)

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. [N/A.](#)⁶

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

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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 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
8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

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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- 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”).⁹ 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). [The field delineated wetland \(Wetland 1 \(dp065\)\) was reviewed for continuous surface connection to any relatively permanent waters \(RPWs\) or TNWs. It was determined that the wetland is surrounded by uplands and does not have a discernible surface connection or connection path to any RPWs or TNWs. The Corps utilized imagery and other remote mapping tools to determine if the wetland abut any](#)

⁹ 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

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RPWs or TNWs. Based on the review of available information, it was determined that the wetland lacks a continuous surface connection with a jurisdictional water and therefore is considered non-jurisdictional because it does 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*.

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. Wetland Determination Data Sheets, including on-site photographs, prepared for Minnesota Power, Longspur Wind Project, dated October 10, 2025.
 - b. USGS Mapping – Hailstone Butte, scale 1:24,000, dated 1970.
 - c. Google Earth Pro images 7/1995 - 6/2023, accessed August 31, 2026.
 - d. USFWS - National Wetlands Inventory Mapping.
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.

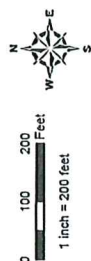


 Photo Point
 Upland Data Point
 Wetland Data Point
 Delineated Wetland
 PEM

AJD Request
Minnesota Power
Morton County,
North Dakota



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For Environmental Review Purposes Only

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL OPTIONS AND PROCESS AND REQUEST FOR APPEAL		<i>Form Approved -</i> OMB No. 0710-0003 <i>Expires 2027-10-31</i>
For use of this form, see Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act; the proponent agency is CECW-COR.		
DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974		
Authority	The authorities for requesting this information are Sections 9, 10, 13, and 14, Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899; Section 404, Clean Water Act; and Section 103 Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972.	
Principal Purpose	This information serves as notification to affected parties regarding the USACE administrative appeal options and process, as well as to facilitate requests for appeal of USACE decisions with which they disagree.	
Routine Uses	Routine uses will include: (a) To serve as notification to affected parties of the Corps administrative appeal options and process and to facilitate requests for appeal of Corps decisions with which they disagree. (b) Records may be referred to the Department of Justice for possible criminal prosecution. (c) Records may be referred to other Federal, State, and local agencies for evaluation and enforcement purposes.	
Disclosure	Disclosure of this information is voluntary on your part. However, failure of individual to provide requested information could result in inability to determine all pertinent information regarding a Department of the Army permit matter.	
The Agency Disclosure Notice (ADN)		
The Public reporting burden for this collection of information, 0710-0003, is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or burden reduction suggestions to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, at whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil . Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.		
PURPOSE: This form is used to facilitate the initiation of the administrative appeals process. The appeals process allows an affected party to pursue an administrative appeal of certain Corps of Engineers decisions with which they disagree.		
Upon release, this form will also be available on the Corps website https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/		
Applicant: Merjent, Inc. / Minnesota Power	File Number: NWO-2026-996-BIS	Date: 2026-09-02
Documents Attached (<i>select all that apply</i>):		Form Reference Section:
☐	INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT (<i>Standard Permit or Letter of Permission</i>)	A
☐	PROFFERED PERMIT (<i>Standard Permit or Letter of Permission</i>)	B
☐	PERMIT DENIAL WITHOUT PREJUDICE	C
☐	PERMIT DENIAL WITH PREJUDICE	D
☒	APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION	E
☐	PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION	F
SECTION I		
The following identifies your rights and options regarding an administrative appeal of the above decision. Additional information may be found at https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Regulatory-Program-and-Permits/appeals/ or Corps regulations at 33 CFR Part 331.		
A: INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT: <i>You may accept or object to the permit</i>		
ACCEPT: If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.		
OBJECT: If you object to the permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may request that the permit be modified accordingly. You must complete Section II of this form and return the form to the district engineer. Upon receipt of your letter, the district engineer will evaluate your objections and may: (a) modify the permit to address all of your concerns, (b) modify the permit to address some of your objections, or (c) not modify the permit having determined that the permit should be issued as previously written. After evaluating your objections, the district engineer will send you a proffered permit for your reconsideration, as indicated in Section B below.		

B: PROFFERED PERMIT: *You may accept or appeal the permit*

- **ACCEPT:** If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.
- **APPEAL:** If you choose to decline the proffered permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may appeal the declined permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

C. PERMIT DENIAL WITHOUT PREJUDICE: *Not appealable*

You received a permit denial without prejudice because a required Federal, state, and/or local authorization and/or certification has been denied for activities which also require a Department of the Army permit before final action has been taken on the Army permit application. The permit denial without prejudice is not appealable. There is no prejudice to the right of the applicant to reinstate processing of the Army permit application if subsequent approval is received from the appropriate Federal, state, and/or local agency on a previously denied authorization and/or certification.

D: PERMIT DENIAL WITH PREJUDICE: *You may appeal the permit denial*

You may appeal the denial of a permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

E: APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: *You may accept or appeal the approved JD or provide new information for reconsideration*

- **ACCEPT:** You do not need to notify the Corps to accept an approved JD. Failure to notify the Corps within 60 days of the date of this notice means that you accept the approved JD in its entirety and waive all rights to appeal the approved JD.
- **APPEAL:** If you disagree with the approved JD, you may appeal the approved JD under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.
- **RECONSIDERATION:** You may request that the district engineer reconsider the approved JD by submitting new information or data to the district engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice. The district will determine whether the information submitted qualifies as new information or data that justifies reconsideration of the approved JD. A reconsideration request does not initiate the appeal process. You may submit a request for appeal to the division engineer to preserve your appeal rights while the district is determining whether the submitted information qualifies for a reconsideration.

F: PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: *Not appealable*

You do not need to respond to the Corps regarding the preliminary JD. The Preliminary JD is not appealable. If you wish, you may request an approved JD (which may be appealed), by contacting the Corps district for further instruction. Also, you may provide new information for further consideration by the Corps to reevaluate the JD.

POINT OF CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION:

If you have questions regarding this decision you may contact:	If you have questions regarding the appeal process, or to submit your request for appeal, you may contact:
Name: Benjamin Soiseth, Chief, North Dakota Branch	Name: Melinda Larsen, Regulatory Appeals Review Officer
Street Address, 3319 University Drive City, State: Bismarck, North Dakota 58504	Street Address, US Army Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd, Suite 400 City, State: Portland, OR 97232
Phone: 701-255-0015 ext. 6396	Phone: 503-726-6194
Email: benjamin.n.soiseth@usace.army.mil	Email: melinda.m.larsen@usace.army.mil

SECTION II - REQUEST FOR APPEAL or OBJECTIONS TO AN INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT

REASONS FOR APPEAL OR OBJECTIONS: *(Describe your reasons for appealing the decision or your objections to an initial proffered permit in clear concise statements. Use additional pages as necessary. You may attach additional information to this form to clarify where your reasons or objections are addressed in the administrative record.)*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The appeal is limited to a review of the administrative record, the Corps memorandum for the record of the appeal conference or meeting, and any supplemental information that the review officer has determined is needed to clarify the administrative record. Neither the appellant nor the Corps may add new information or analyses to the record. However, you may provide additional information to clarify the location of information that is already in the administrative record.

RIGHT OF ENTRY: Your signature below grants the right of entry to Corps of Engineers personnel, and any government consultants, to conduct investigations of the project site during the course of the appeal process. You will be provided a 15-day notice of any site investigation and will have the opportunity to participate in all site investigations.

Email address of appellant and/or agent

Telephone number

Signature of appellant or agent

Date