# APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

This form should be completed by following the instructions provided in Section IV of the JD Form Instructional Guidebook.

## **SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

## A. REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): July 23, 2015

**B. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER:** Louisville District, River Ridge Development Authority (RRDA) 1,547-Acre Mega Site, LRL-2015-51-mh, [NRPW on unnamed tributary (UNT) to Lentzier Creek (ST5)].

C.	PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:  State: Indiana County/parish/borough: Clark City: Utica  Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat. 38.367046 ° N, Long85.659396 ° W.				
Universal Transverse Mercator: 16N: 617115 E, 4247391 N Name of nearest waterbody: Lentzier Creek					
	Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) into which the aquatic resource flows: Ohio River  Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): Silver-Little Kentucky (05140101)  Check if map/diagram of review area and/or potential jurisdictional areas is/are available upon request.  Check if other sites (e.g., offsite mitigation sites, disposal sites, etc) are associated with this action and are recorded on a different JD form.				
D.	REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):  ☐ Office (Desk) Determination. Date: 11 and 19 December 2014 by consultant and July 2015 by Corps ☐ Field Determination. Date(s): 15-17 December 2014 by consultant, 14 and 27 May 2015 by Corps				
SEC A.	CTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.				
	re <b>are no</b> "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 329) in the review. [Required]  Waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.  Waters are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce. Explain:				
В. (	CWA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.				
The	re <b>Are</b> "waters of the U.S." within Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 328) in the review area. [Required]				
	1. Waters of the U.S.  a. Indicate presence of waters of U.S. in review area (check all that apply):  TNWs, including territorial seas  Wetlands adjacent to TNWs Relatively permanent waters² (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Impoundments of jurisdictional waters Isolated (interstate or intrastate) waters, including isolated wetlands				
	b. Identify (estimate) size of waters of the U.S. in the review area:  Non-wetland waters: 739 linear feet: #width (ft) and/or 0.093 acres.  Wetlands: N/A acres.				
	c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: Established by OHWM.  Elevation of established OHWM (if known): 1-foot				
	2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable): <sup>3</sup> Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to be not jurisdictional. Explain: click here to enter text.				

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For purposes of this form, an RPW is defined as a tributary that is not a TNW and that typically flows year-round or has continuous flow at least "seasonally" (e.g., typically 3 months).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

#### **SECTION III: CWA ANALYSIS**

#### A. TNWs AND WETLANDS ADJACENT TO TNWs

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over TNWs and wetlands adjacent to TNWs. If the aquatic resource is a TNW, complete Section III.A.1 and Section III.D.1. only; if the aquatic resource is a wetland adjacent to a TNW, complete Sections III.A.1 and 2 and Section III.D.1.; otherwise, see Section III.B below.

#### 1. TNW

Identify TNW: click here to enter text.

Summarize rationale supporting determination: click here to enter text.

#### 2. Wetland adjacent to TNW

Summarize rationale supporting conclusion that wetland is "adjacent": click here to enter text.

## B. CHARACTERISTICS OF TRIBUTARY (THAT IS NOT A TNW) AND ITS ADJACENT WETLANDS (IF ANY):

This section summarizes information regarding characteristics of the tributary and its adjacent wetlands, if any, and it helps determine whether or not the standards for jurisdiction established under *Rapanos* have been met.

The agencies will assert jurisdiction over non-navigable tributaries of TNWs where the tributaries are "relatively permanent waters" (RPWs), i.e. tributaries that typically flow year-round or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g., typically 3 months). A wetland that directly abuts an RPW is also jurisdictional. If the aquatic resource is not a TNW, but has year-round (perennial) flow, skip to Section III.D.2. If the aquatic resource is a wetland directly abutting a tributary with perennial flow, skip to Section III.D.4.

A wetland that is adjacent to but that does not directly abut an RPW requires a significant nexus evaluation. Corps districts and EPA regions will include in the record any available information that documents the existence of a significant nexus between a relatively permanent tributary that is not perennial (and its adjacent wetlands if any) and a traditional navigable water, even though a significant nexus finding is not required as a matter of law.

If the waterbody<sup>4</sup> is not an RPW, or a wetland directly abutting an RPW, a JD will require additional data to determine if the waterbody has a significant nexus with a TNW. If the tributary has adjacent wetlands, the significant nexus evaluation must consider the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands. This significant nexus evaluation that combines, for analytical purposes, the tributary and all of its adjacent wetlands is used whether the review area identified in the JD request is the tributary, or its adjacent wetlands, or both. If the JD covers a tributary with adjacent wetlands, complete Section III.B.1 for the tributary, Section III.B.2 for any onsite wetlands, and Section III.B.3 for all wetlands adjacent to that tributary, both onsite and offsite. The determination whether a significant nexus exists is determined in Section III.C below.

## 1. Characteristics of non-TNWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNW

**General Area Conditions:** 

## Watershed size: 1,277 acres Drainage area: 0.088 square miles Average annual rainfall: 44.9 inches Average annual snowfall: 12.5 inches (ii) Physical Characteristics: Relationship with TNW: ☐ Tributary flows directly into TNW – Lentzier Creek. ☐ Tributary flows through 2 tributaries before entering TNW – nonRPW (ST5) Project waters are 3-3.5 river miles from TNW. Project waters are 1 or less river miles from RPW. Project waters are 2 or less aerial (straight) miles from TNW. Project waters are 1 or less (straight) miles from RPW. Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: No. Identify flow route to TNW<sup>5</sup>: ST5 flows to UNT Lentzier Creek, to Lentzier Creek, to the Ohio River. Tributary stream order, if known: 1. (b) General Tributary Characteristics (check all that apply): Tributary is: Natural Artificial (man-made). Explain: click here to enter text. Manipulated (man-altered). Explain: *click here to enter text*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Note that the Instructional Guidebook contains additional information regarding swales, ditches, washes, and erosional features generally and in the arid West

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Flow route can be described by identifying, e.g., tributary a, which flows through the review area, to flow into tributary b, which then flows into TNW.

	Tributary properties with respect to top of bank (estimate):  Average width: 15 feet  Average depth: 4 feet  Average side slopes: Unmeasured.
	Primary tributary substrate composition (check all that apply):  Silts Sands Concrete Cobbles Gravel Muck Bedrock Vegetation. Type/% cover: Other. Explain:
	Tributary condition/stability [e.g., highly eroding, sloughing banks]. Explain: minimal erosion and stable banks. Presence of run/riffle/pool complexes. Explain: No. Tributary geometry: Slight meandering Tributary gradient (approximate average slope): Unknown
(c)	Flow: Tributary provides for: Battle Creek (continous flow); ST 5 (ephemeral flow) Estimate average number of flow events in review area/year: 20 (or greater) Describe flow regime: Ephemeral, only during or shortly after rain events. Other information on duration and volume: N/A
	Surface flow is: Confined. Characteristics: Flow is confined to channel.
	Subsurface flow: Unknown. Explain findings: click here to enter text.  Dye (or other) test performed: click here to enter text.
	Tributary has (check all that apply):  Bed and banks  OHWM <sup>6</sup> (check all indicators that apply):  clear, natural line impressed on the bank destruction of terrestrial vegetation destruction of terrestrial vegetation the presence of wrack line vegetation matted down, bent, or absent sediment sorting leaf litter disturbed or washed away scour sediment deposition multiple observed or predicted flow events abrupt change in plant community other (list):  Discontinuous OHWM. Explain: click here to enter text.
	If factors other than the OHWM were used to determine lateral extent of CWA jurisdiction (check all that apply):    High Tide Line indicated by:
Cha	emical Characteristics: aracterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed characteristics, etc.). Explain: Water color was relatively clear; no films or odors or other poor water quality indicators observed. ntify specific pollutants, if known: Unknown.

## (iii)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>A natural or man-made discontinuity in the OHWM does not necessarily sever jurisdiction (e.g., where the stream temporarily flows underground, or where the OHWM has been removed by development or agricultural practices). Where there is a break in the OHWM that is unrelated to the waterbody's flow regime (e.g., flow over a rock outcrop or through a culvert), the agencies will look for indicators of flow above and below the break.

	(IV)		Riparian corridor. Character Wetland fringe. Character	eristics (type, average w	width): Forested, $\geq 50$ feet on south si	de; Grassland on north side
		$\boxtimes$	Habitat for:			
			☐ Federally Listed specie☐ Fish/spawn areas. Expl			
			☐ Other environmentally- ☐ Aquatic/wildlife divers	sensitive species. Explaity. Explain findings: M	nin findings: <i>click here to enter text</i> . Iinor stream habitat for aquatic macro	oinvertebrates. Riparian corridor
			provide habitat for small a	nd large mammals, birds	s, reptiles, and amphibians.	
2.	Cha	aract	eristics of wetlands adjace	nt to non-TNW that flo	ow directly or indirectly into TNW	
	(i)		rsical Characteristics: General Wetland Character	ristics:		
		(4)	Properties:	<u> </u>		
			Wetland size: # acres Wetland type. Explain	: click have to enter text		
				ain: click here to enter text.		
			Project wetlands cross or s	erve as state boundaries.	. click here to enter text.	
		(b)	General Flow Relationship Flow is: <b>Pick List</b> . Explain			
			Surface flow is: Pick List	i. ener here to emer text.		
			Characteristics: click he	re to enter text.		
			Subsurface flow: Pick List	t. Explain findings: click	there to enter text.	
				performed: click here to en		
		(c)	Wetland Adjacency Deterr Directly abutting	mination with Non-TNW	<u>7:</u>	
			☐ Not directly abutting			
			Discrete wetland h	ydrologic connection. E	Explain: click here to enter text.	
				tion. Explain: <i>click here i</i> /barrier. Explain: <i>click h</i>		
		(d)	Proximity (Relationship) to		1887	
			Project wetlands are <b>Pick I</b> Project waters are <b>Pick Li</b>			
			Flow is from: <b>Pick List.</b>			
			Estimate approximate loca	tion of wetland as within	n the <b>Pick List</b> floodplain.	
	(ii) Chemical Characteristics:  Characterize wetland system (e.g., water color is clear, brown, oil film on surface; water quality; general watershed		lity: general watershed			
			characteristics; etc.). Expl	ain: click here to enter text	•	nty, general watershed
		Ider	ntify specific pollutants, if k	nown: click here to enter to	ext.	
	(iii)	Bio	logical Characteristics. W Riparian buffer. Character			
		$\exists$	Vegetation type/percent co			
			Habitat for:	- T- 1 ' C' 1' '		
			☐ Federally Listed specie☐ Fish/spawn areas. Expl			
			Other environmentally-	sensitive species. Expla	ain findings: click here to enter text.	
			Aquatic/wildlife divers	ity. Explain findings: cl	ick here to enter text.	
3.	Characteristics of all wetlands adjacent to the tributary (if any)  All wetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis: Pick List  Approximately (#) acres in total are being considered in the cumulative analysis.					
		For	each wetland, specify the fo	ollowing:		
			Directly abuts? (Y/N)	Size (in acres)	Directly abuts? (Y/N)	Size (in acres)
			Y/N	#	Y/N	#

Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed: click here to enter text.

#### C. SIGNIFICANT NEXUS DETERMINATION

A significant nexus analysis will assess the flow characteristics and functions of the tributary itself and the functions performed by any wetlands adjacent to the tributary to determine if they significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of a TNW. For each of the following situations, a significant nexus exists if the tributary, in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, has more than a speculative or insubstantial effect on the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of a TNW. Considerations when evaluating significant nexus include, but are not limited to the volume, duration, and frequency of the flow of water in the tributary and its proximity to a TNW, and the functions performed by the tributary and all its adjacent wetlands. It is not appropriate to determine significant nexus based solely on any specific threshold of distance (e.g. between a tributary and its adjacent wetland or between a tributary and the TNW). Similarly, the fact an adjacent wetland lies within or outside of a floodplain is not solely determinative of significant nexus.

Draw connections between the features documented and the effects on the TNW, as identified in the *Rapanos* Guidance and discussed in the Instructional Guidebook. Factors to consider include, for example:

- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to carry pollutants or flood waters to TNWs, or to reduce the amount of pollutants or flood waters reaching a TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), provide habitat and lifecycle support functions for fish and other species, such as feeding, nesting, spawning, or rearing young for species that are present in the TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to transfer nutrients and organic carbon that support downstream foodwebs?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have other relationships to the physical, chemical, or biological integrity of the TNW?

Note: the above list of considerations is not inclusive and other functions observed or known to occur should be documented below:

- 1. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW that has no adjacent wetlands and flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary itself, then go to Section III.D: The UNT Lentzier Creek (ST5) is a headwater ephemeral stream channel. The stream and its corresponding riparian corridor provide primary productivity and nutrient transport to downstream waters, eventually draining to a TNW. The stream provides some minor habitat for aquatic invertebrates. The stream has the capacity to transfer, as well as filter/reduce pollutants/runoff from the surrounding area, which is seeing a lot of growth and development. Flow of water through this natural headwater tributary helps reduce the flow of runoff, as well as cool and oxygenate the water. These functions provide more than a speculative or insubstantial effect on the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the downstream TNW (Ohio River). Therefore, this tributary has a significant nexus to a downstream TNW and is considered a waters of the US.
- 2. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW and its adjacent wetlands, where the non-RPW flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D: click here to enter text.
- 3. Significant nexus findings for wetlands adjacent to an RPW but that do not directly abut the RPW. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D: click here to enter text.

D. DETERMINATIONS OF JURISDICTIONAL FINDINGS. THE SUBJECT WATERS/WETLANDS ARE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

1.	TNWs and Adjacent Wetlands. Check all that apply and provide size estimates in review area:  TNWs: # linear feet # width (ft), or, # acres.  Wetlands adjacent to TNWs: # acres.
2.	RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.  Tributaries of TNWs where tributaries typically flow year-round are jurisdictional. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial: click here to enter text.  Tributaries of TNW where tributaries have continuous flow "seasonally" (e.g., typically three months each year) are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.B. Provide rationale indicating that tributary flows seasonally: click here to enter text.  Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):  Tributary waters: click here to enter text.  Other non-wetland waters: N/A acres.  Identify type(s) of waters: click here to enter text.

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<sup>3.</sup> Non-RPWs<sup>8</sup> that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.

<sup>8</sup>See Footnote # 3.

	Waterbody that is not a TNW or an RPW, but flows directly or indirectly into a TNW, and it has a significant nexus with a TNW is jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.
	Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters within the review area (check all that apply):  Tributary waters: ST5: 739 LF, <1ft wide Other non-wetland waters: NA acres. Identify type(s) of waters: click here to enter text.
4.	Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.  Wetlands directly abut RPW and thus are jurisdictional as adjacent wetlands.  Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow year-round. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW: click here to enter text.
	■ Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow "seasonally." Provide data indicating that tributary is seasonal in Section III.B and rationale in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW: click here to enter text.
	Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: # acres.
5.	Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.  Wetlands that do not directly abut an RPW, but when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisidictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.
	Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: # acres.
6.	Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.  Wetlands adjacent to such waters, and have when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.
	Provide estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: # acres.
7.	Impoundments of jurisdictional waters.  As a general rule, the impoundment of a jurisdictional tributary remains jurisdictional.  Demonstrate that impoundment was created from "waters of the U.S.," or  Demonstrate that water meets the criteria for one of the categories presented above (1-6), or  Demonstrate that water is isolated with a nexus to commerce (see E below).
DE SU	DLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, GRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY CH WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): 10 which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes. from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce. which are or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce. Interstate isolated waters. Explain: click here to enter text.  Other factors. Explain: click here to enter text.
Ide	entify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination: click here to enter text.
Pro	ovide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):  Tributary waters: # linear feet # width (ft).  Other non-wetland waters: # acres.  Identify type(s) of waters: click here to enter text.  Wetlands: # acres.

E.

 $<sup>^{9}\,\</sup>mathrm{To}$  complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Prior to asserting or declining CWA jurisdiction based solely on this category, Corps Districts will elevate the action to Corps and EPA HQ for review consistent with the process described in the Corps/EPA Memorandum Regarding CWA Act Jurisdiction Following Rapanos.

F.	<ul> <li>If potential wetlands were assessed within the review area, these areas did not meet the criteria in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and/or appropriate Regional Supplements.</li> <li>Review area included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce.</li> </ul>				
	"Migratory Bird Rule" (MBR).	ANCC," the review area would have been regulated based solely on the			
	Waters do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, whe	re such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain: click here to enter			
	Other: (explain, if not covered above): <i>click here to enter tex</i>	t.			
	Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the rea finding is required for jurisdiction (check all that apply):  Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): # linear feet, # v Lakes/ponds: # acres.  Other non-wetland waters: # acres. List type of aquatic res				
	Wetlands: # acres.				
SEG	CTION IV: DATA SOURCES.				
		apply - checked items shall be included in case file and, where checked			
	and requested, appropriately reference sources below):	applicant/consultant: see Figures in June 2015 Wetland Report icant/consultant.			
	<ul> <li>□ Data sheets prepared by the Corps: click here to enter text.</li> <li>□ Corps navigable waters' study: click here to enter text.</li> <li>□ U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas</li> <li>□ USGS NHD data.</li> </ul>	ort.			
	<ul> <li>✓ USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.</li> <li>✓ U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale &amp; quad name: J</li> <li>✓ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey</li> <li>✓ National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: see Figure State/Local wetland inventory map(s): click here to enter text</li> <li>✓ FEMA/FIRM maps: see Figure 4 in Report.</li> <li>✓ 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: click here to enter text. (Natural Photographs: Aerial (Name &amp; Date): see Figure 2 in During</li> </ul>	ey. Citation: see Figure 3 in June 2015 Wetland Report re 4 in June 2015 Wetland Report.  t. ational Geodectic Vertical Datum of 1929) une 2015 Wetland Report.			
	or  Other (Name & Date): see Appendix B in Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response le Applicable/supporting case law: click here to enter text.  Applicable/supporting scientific literature: click here to enter to other information (please specify): click here to enter text.	etter: click here to enter text.			
assc		ciated with Lentzier Creek watershed, and RPWs and non-RPWs forms (total of 4 JD forms for project site). Also, see attached Table 1 nd Report.			
Pro <sup>3</sup>	ject Manager (initials)	Approver (initials)			
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