

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): FEB 23 2015

B. DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: CENAB-OP-RMS 2014-02325-M32 (HAMPTON PARK PROPERTY/JD)

PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION: 24.42 -acre property located within the Kingdom Square Shopping Center, southwest of the intersection of I-95/495 and MD-214 and southeast of the intersection of Central Avenue and Hampton Mall Road North, in Prince George's County, Maryland. Reaches: **1 stream**

State: **Maryland** County/parish/borough: **Prince George's** City: **Largo**
Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): **latitude N 38.889167 and longitude W - 76.848889**

Name of nearest waterbody: **Southwest Branch**

Name of nearest Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) into which the aquatic resource flows: **Patuxent River**

Name of watershed or Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC): **Western Branch Patuxent River Watershed (HUC12: 0206000603)**

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: **29 January 2015**

Field Determination. Date(s): **17 December 2014**

SECTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

A. RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There **are not** "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 329) in the review area. [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:

B. CWA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.

There are and are not "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):¹

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: The project site consists of approximately 7,725 square feet along 1,545 linear feet of the unnamed perennial stream (Stream 1 on the plans) and a 60 square foot along 6 linear feet portion of Southwest Branch

The project impact area is indicated below.

c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Regional Supplement to the Corps Wetland Delineation Manual

Elevation of established OHWM (if known):

2. Non-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable):³

¹ Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

² 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).

³ Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.

Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined not to be jurisdictional. Explain:

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:

Summarize rationale supporting determination:

2. Wetland adjacent to TNW

Summarize rationale supporting conclusion that wetland is “adjacent”:

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 waterbody⁴ 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

(i) General Area Conditions:

Watershed size: **111.7 square miles (Western Branch Patuxent River Watershed (HUC12: 0206000603))**

Drainage area: **unknown**

Normal average monthly rainfall for December: **approximately 3 inches per month⁵**

Departure from normal average monthly rainfall for December 2014: **1 inches more than average in the general vicinity of the project area**

(ii) Physical Characteristics:

(a) Relationship with TNW:

Tributary flows directly into TNW.

Tributary flows through **2 (Stream 1) or 1 (Southwest Branch)** tributaries before entering TNW

Project waters are approximately **12.8** river miles from TNW.

Project waters are approximately **less than 1** river miles from RPW.

Project waters are approximately **10.1** aerial (straight) miles from TNW.

⁴ Note that the Instructional Guidebook contains additional information regarding swales, ditches, washes, and erosional features generally and in the arid West.

⁵ NOAA, National Weather Service, Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service, <http://water.weather.gov/precip/> Accessed 27 January 2015. For additional information on normal rainfall, please see <http://water.weather.gov/precip/about.php>

Project waters are approximately **less than 1** aerial (straight) miles from RPW.

Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: **N/A**.

Identify flow route to TNW⁶: **Unnamed tributary (Stream 1) flows through Southwest Branch and then through Western Branch of the Patuxent River into the Patuxent River, a TNW.**

Tributary stream order, if known: **1st order**

(b) General Tributary Characteristics (check all that apply):

Tributary is: Natural:
 Artificial (man-made). Explain: **Both Stream 1 and Southwest Branch in the vicinity of the project area are open concrete trapezoidal channels.**
 Manipulated (man-altered). Explain:

Tributary properties with respect to top of bank (estimate):

Average width: **at top of bank- 15 feet (Stream 1), 15 feet (Southwest Branch); at OHWM - 5 feet (Stream 1), 10 feet (Southwest Branch)**

Average depth: **at top of bank- 15 feet (Stream 1), 7 feet (Southwest Branch); at OHWM – 0.5 feet (Stream 1), 1 feet (Southwest Branch)**

Average side slopes: **1: 1**

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: **stable – concrete channel**

Tributary geometry: **concrete trapezoidal channel**

Tributary gradient (approximate average slope): **~1%,**

(c) Flow:

Tributary provides for: **perennial flow**

Estimate average number of flow events in review area/year: **unknown**

Describe flow regime: **see above**

Other information on duration and volume: **The Corps observed flow in Stream 1 and Southwest Branch during the site visit on 17 December 2014. The agent stated that both streams had also been flowing at the time of the wetland delineation.**

Surface flow is: **perennial** Characteristics:

Subsurface flow: **unknown;**

Dye (or other) test performed: **N/A.**

Tributary has (check all that apply):

Bed and banks
 OHWM⁷ (check all indicators that apply):
 clear, natural line impressed on the bank the presence of litter and debris
 changes in the character of soil destruction of terrestrial vegetation
 shelving 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
 water staining abrupt change in plant community
 other (list): algal growth
 Discontinuous OHWM.⁸ Explain: **N/A.**

If factors other than the OHWM were used to determine lateral extent of CWA jurisdiction (check all that apply):

High Tide Line indicated by: Mean High Water Mark indicated by:
 oil or scum line along shore objects survey to available datum;
 fine shell or debris deposits (foreshore) physical markings;
 physical markings/characteristics vegetation lines/changes in vegetation types.

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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

⁸Ibid.

- tidal gauges
- other (list):

(iii) Chemical Characteristics:

Characterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed characteristics, etc.).

Explain: **water color is brownish colored and mostly clear**

Identify specific pollutants, if known: **unknown**

(iv) Biological Characteristics. Channel supports (check all that apply):

Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, average width): **Stream 1 – 59 foot wide forested on east side only; Southwest Branch – 35 feet scrub-shrub and emergent vegetation on north bank, 59 foot wide forested on south bank**

Wetland fringe. Characteristics:

Habitat for:

Federally Listed species. Explain findings:

Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: **The perennial flow of Stream 1 and Southwest Branch could provide for some fish habitat. However, due to the artificial concrete substrate, the shallow nature of the water, and the lack of canopy cover over the two streams, fish habitat is likely to be limited by time of year (i.e. inhospitable conditions during summer) and used only by the hardiest species.**

Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings:

Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings: **The forested riparian cooridor along Southwest Branch connects two larger forested areas – along upstream portions of Southwest Branch on the west side and along Western Branch on the east side of the AOR. Terrestrial fauna using these forested areas could also use the forested riparian cooridor along Southwest Branch to migrate between these two larger areas and as additional habitat.**

2. Characteristics of wetlands adjacent to non-TNW that flow directly or indirectly into TNW

(i) Physical Characteristics:

(a) General Wetland Characteristics:

Properties:

Wetland size:

Wetland type.

Wetland quality. Explain: **Refer to Section IV.B.**

Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: **N/A.**

(b) General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW:

Flow is:

Characteristics:

Subsurface flow: Explain findings:

Dye (or other) test performed:

(c) Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW:

Directly abutting

Not directly abutting

Discrete wetland hydrologic connection. Explain:

Ecological connection. Explain:

Separated by berm/barrier. Explain:

(d) Proximity (Relationship) to TNW

Project wetlands are river miles from TNW.

Project wetlands are aerial (straight) miles from TNW.

Flow is from:

Estimate approximate location of wetland as within the floodplain:

(ii) Chemical Characteristics:

Characterize wetland system (e.g., water color is clear, brown, oil film on surface; water quality; general watershed characteristics; etc.). Explain:

Identify specific pollutants, if known:

(iii) Biological Characteristics. Wetland supports (check all that apply):

Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, average width):

Vegetation type/percent cover. Explain:

Habitat for:

Federally Listed species. Explain findings:

Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings:

Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings:

Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings:

3. Characteristics of all wetlands adjacent to the tributary (if any)

All wetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis:

Approximately acres in total are being considered in the cumulative analysis.

For each wetland, specify the following:

<u>Directly abuts? (Y/N)</u>	<u>Size (in acres)</u>	<u>Directly abuts? (Y/N)</u>	<u>Size (in acres)</u>
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Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed: **Refer to Section IV.B.**

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:
- 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:
- 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:

- * Aquatic Life (Organisms):
- * Habitat for Wildlife:
- * Support Nutrient Cycling:
- * Sediment Transport:
- * Pollutant Trapping:
- * WQ Improvement:
- * Temperature:
- * Flood Storage:
- * Commerce:
- * Navigation:
- * Recreation:
- * Public Health:
- * Groundwater Discharge:
- * Groundwater recharge:

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:
- Wetlands adjacent to TNWs:

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: **Stream 1 and Southwest Branch were observed to have well developed stream morphology characteristic of perennial flow in consideration of the artificial nature of the concrete trapezoidal channels. While common characteristics of perennial flow in natural streams, such as channel sinuosity or sediment sorting, were not possible in Stream 1 or Southwest Branch, flow was observed in both streams during the Corps site visit at the beginning of the “wet” season when the last rain had been approximately five days prior to the site visit and both streams had clear and consistent bed, bank, and ordinary high water mark as indicated by staining of the concrete channel and algae growth.**

- 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: The streams

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters (linear feet): **1,545 - Stream 1, 6 linear feet – Southwest Branch**
- Other non-wetland waters: acres.
Identify type(s) of waters:

3. **Non-RPWs⁹ that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs.**

- 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:
- Other non-wetland waters:
Identify type(s) of waters:

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:
 - 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: Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area:

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 jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.

Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area:

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 acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area:

7. **Impoundments of jurisdictional waters.¹⁰**

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).

⁹See Footnote # 3.

¹⁰To complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.

E. ISOLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, DEGRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY SUCH WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):¹¹

- 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:
- Other factors. Explain:

Identify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination:

Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply):

- Tributary waters:
- Other non-wetland waters:
Identify type(s) of waters:
- Wetlands:

F. NON-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, INCLUDING WETLANDS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- 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.
- Review area included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce.
 - Prior to the Jan 2001 Supreme Court decision in "SWANCC," the review area would have been regulated based solely on the "Migratory Bird Rule" (MBR).
 - Waters do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain:
 - Other: (explain, if not covered above):

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the sole potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR factors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated agriculture), using best professional judgment (check all that apply):

- Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams):
- Lakes/ponds:
- Other non-wetland waters: List type of aquatic resource:
- Wetlands:

Provide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area that do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction (check all that apply):

- Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams):
- Lakes/ponds:
- Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource:
- Wetlands:

SECTION IV: DATA SOURCES.

A. SUPPORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply - checked items shall be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below):

- Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant: **vicinity map included in submission dated 10 November 2014.**
- Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant.
 - Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report.
 - Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report.
- Data sheets prepared by the Corps:
- Corps navigable waters' study:
- U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas:
 - USGS NHD data.
 - USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.
- U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name: **Lanham quadrangle**
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation: **soil series on Web Soil Survey report included in submission dated November 2014.**

¹¹ 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.

- National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: **Lanham quadrangle included in submission dated November 2014**
- State/Local wetland inventory map(s):
- FEMA/FIRM maps:
- 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodectic Vertical Datum of 1929)
- Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date): **GoogleEarth – 2010**
or Other (Name & Date): **Photographs included with Delineation Report dated November 2014.**
- Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter:
- Applicable/supporting case law:
- Applicable/supporting scientific literature:
- Other information (please specify):

B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD:

The Corps reviewed a system off-site along the east side of the area of review, a ponded area in a ditch oriented parallel to the unnamed stream along the side of MD-214. The agent stated that the ponded area had been ponded at the time of the delineation in September 2014, but that the water had only been a few inches deep. The agent stated that a beaver dam that had been in place during the September 2014 site visit had been increased in size, increasing the depth of ponding in the feature to several feet at the time of the Corps site visit. The agent stated that hydric soils and dominance by wetland vegetation had been found in the ponded portion of the ditch during the delineation. Due to the depth of the water and/or the time of year, herbaceous vegetation was not visible in the ponded portion of the ditch during the Corps site visit. At the time of the Corps site visit, the dominant vegetation in the tree and sapling strata still met the dominance test for wetland vegetation. However, the Corps determined that the recent additional impoundment and corresponding depth of ponding in the wetland resulted in the development of features more characteristic of a water, such as bed, bank, ordinary high water mark, and flow. According to 33 CFR 328.3 a.4., “All impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States under the definition” qualify as waters of the U.S. The Corps determined that the area delineated as a wetland would be more appropriately classified as an impounded water of the U.S.

References:

NOAA National Weather Service <http://water.weather.gov/precip/> Accessed 29 January 2015.

USACE HUC Characterization tool, Western Branch Patuxent River Watershed (HUC12: 0206000603). Accessed 29 January 2015.