



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT  
PO BOX 2004 CLOCK TOWER BUILDING  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

January 27, 2026

Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: CEMVR-RD-2025-1062

City of Ottawa  
C/O Mr. David Noble  
301 West Madison Street  
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Dear Mr. Noble:

Our office reviewed your jurisdictional determination request received December 8, 2025, for Units 2 through 5 located south of East U.S. Highway 6 and north of Canal Road in Section 8, Township 33 North, Range 4 East, Ottawa, LaSalle County, Illinois (41.3480 / -88.7833) as shown on the attached enclosures.

Our office has completed a Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination (PJD) concerning your project area and we determined that there appear to be 16.98 acres of jurisdictional wetlands, and 3,650 linear feet (LF) of jurisdictional streams present within Unit 4 and Unit 5. Work in these areas would likely require a permit from our office.

Unit 4:

U4DP-1 – 1.23-acres wetland  
U4DP-2 – 0.95-acres wetland  
U4DP-4 – 6.54-acre wetland  
Milliken Creek: approximately 2,650 linear feet of stream

Unit 5:

U4DP-1/U4DP-2 – 7.45-acre wetland  
U4DP-4 – 0.81-acre wetland  
Milliken Creek: approximately 1,000 linear feet of stream

Our office has completed an Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) concerning your project and determined there is 3.82 acres of impounded open water and 3.87 acres of wetlands that are not jurisdictional within Unit 2 and Unit 3. Work in these areas would not require a permit from our office.

Unit 2:

Impoundment 1: 2.38-acres non-jurisdictional

Unit 3:

Impoundment 2: 1.44-acres non-jurisdictional  
Wetland 1 (U3DP-1): 2.56-acres non-jurisdictional  
Wetland 2 (U3DP-2): 0.76-acres non-jurisdictional  
Wetland 3 (U3DP-3): 0.55-acres non-jurisdictional

If you object to this jurisdictional determination, you may request an administrative appeal under Corps regulations found at 33 CFR Part 331. Enclosed is a Notification of Appeal Process (NAP) fact sheet and Request for Appeal (RFA) form. If you request to appeal this AJD, you must submit a completed RFA form to the Mississippi Valley Division Office at the following address:

Brian Oberlies  
Regulatory Appeals Review Officer  
Mississippi Valley Division  
1400 Walnut Street  
Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180

In order for an 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 Part 331.5, and that it has been received by the Division Office within 60 days of the date of the NAP. It is not necessary to submit an RFA form to the Division Office if you do not object to the AJD contained in this letter.

You are advised that this determination for your project is valid for five years from the date of this letter. If the project is not completed within this five-year period, or your project plans change, you should contact our office for another determination.

Should you have any questions, please contact me by letter, email [Kirsten.L.Brown@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kirsten.L.Brown@usace.army.mil), or telephone 309-215-5831.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Brown  
Senior PM, Western Branch  
Regulatory Division

Enclosures

cc: (w/enclosures)

City of Ottawa

[dnoble@cityofottawa.org](mailto:dnoble@cityofottawa.org)

Fehr Graham

[mdrabik@fehrgraham.com](mailto:mdrabik@fehrgraham.com)

## NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL OPTIONS AND PROCESS AND REQUEST FOR APPEAL

|                                     |                                                                    |                   |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Applicant: City of Ottawa           | File Number: 2025-1062                                             | Date: 1/27/2026   |
| Attached is:                        |                                                                    | See Section below |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of permission) | A                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of permission)         | B                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | PERMIT DENIAL WITHOUT PREJUDICE                                    | C                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | PERMIT DENIAL WITH PREJUDICE                                       | D                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION                              | E                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 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:** You may accept or object to 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.
- **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:  
Kirsten Brown  
US Army Corps of Engineers District Rock Island  
ATTN: Regulatory Division  
Clock Tower Building  
Post Office Box 2004  
Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004  
(309)215-5831

If you have questions regarding the appeal process, or to submit your request for appeal, you may contact:  
Brian Oberlies  
Regulatory Appeals Review Officer  
Mississippi Valley Division  
1400 Walnut St.  
Vicksburg, MS 39180  
(601) 634-5820

**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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of appellant or agent.

Date:

Email address of appellant and/or agent:

Telephone number:



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT  
P.O. BOX 2004, CLOCK TOWER BUILDING  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

CEMVR

27 JANUARY 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Approved Jurisdictional Determination in accordance with the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'"; (88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) as amended by the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" (8 September 2023),<sup>1</sup> 2025-1062<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

On January 18, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army ("the agencies") published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States,'" 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) ("2023 Rule"). On September 8, 2023, the agencies published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming", which amended the 2023 Rule to conform to the 2023 Supreme Court decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S., 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023) ("*Sackett*").

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),<sup>5</sup> the 2023 Rule as amended,

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<sup>1</sup> While the Revised Definition of "Waters of the United States"; Conforming 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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, the territorial seas, or interstate water 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.).

<sup>3</sup> 33 CFR 331.2.

<sup>4</sup> Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

<sup>5</sup> 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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SUBJECT: 2023 Rule, as amended, Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), 2025-1062

as well as other applicable guidance, relevant case law, and longstanding practice in evaluating jurisdiction.

## 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. Impoundment 1 (Unit 2) (41.3462 / -88.7895) – 2.38 acres – non-jurisdictional
  - ii. Impoundment 2 (Unit 3) (41.3452 / -88.7852) – 1.44 acres – non-jurisdictional
  - iii. Wetland 1 (Unit 3) (41.3505 / -88.7861)–2.56 acres- non-jurisdictional- no csc
  - iv. Wetland 2 (Unit 3) (41.3496 / -88.7842)–0.76 acres- non-jurisdictional- no csc
  - v. Wetland 3 (Unit 3) (41.3477 / -88.7862)–0.55 acres- non-jurisdictional- no csc

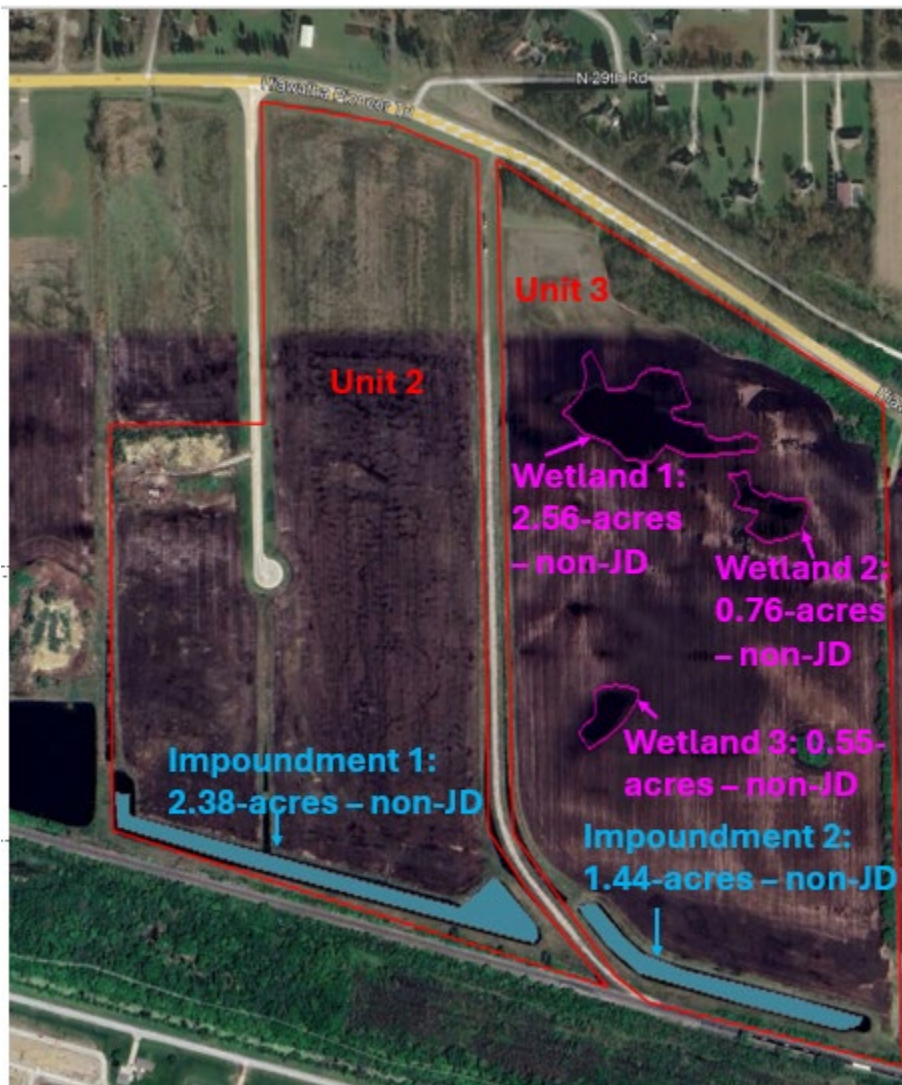
## 2. REFERENCES.

- a. “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States,’” 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) (“2023 Rule”)
- b. “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’; Conforming” 88 FR 61964 (September 8, 2023))
- c. *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S. \_\_, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)

3. REVIEW AREA. The review area is comprised of Unit 2 – 65.32-acres (41.3483 / -88.7899) and Unit 3 – 70.19-acres (41.3486 / -88.7853), in Section 8, Township 33 North, Range 4 East, LaSalle County, Illinois.

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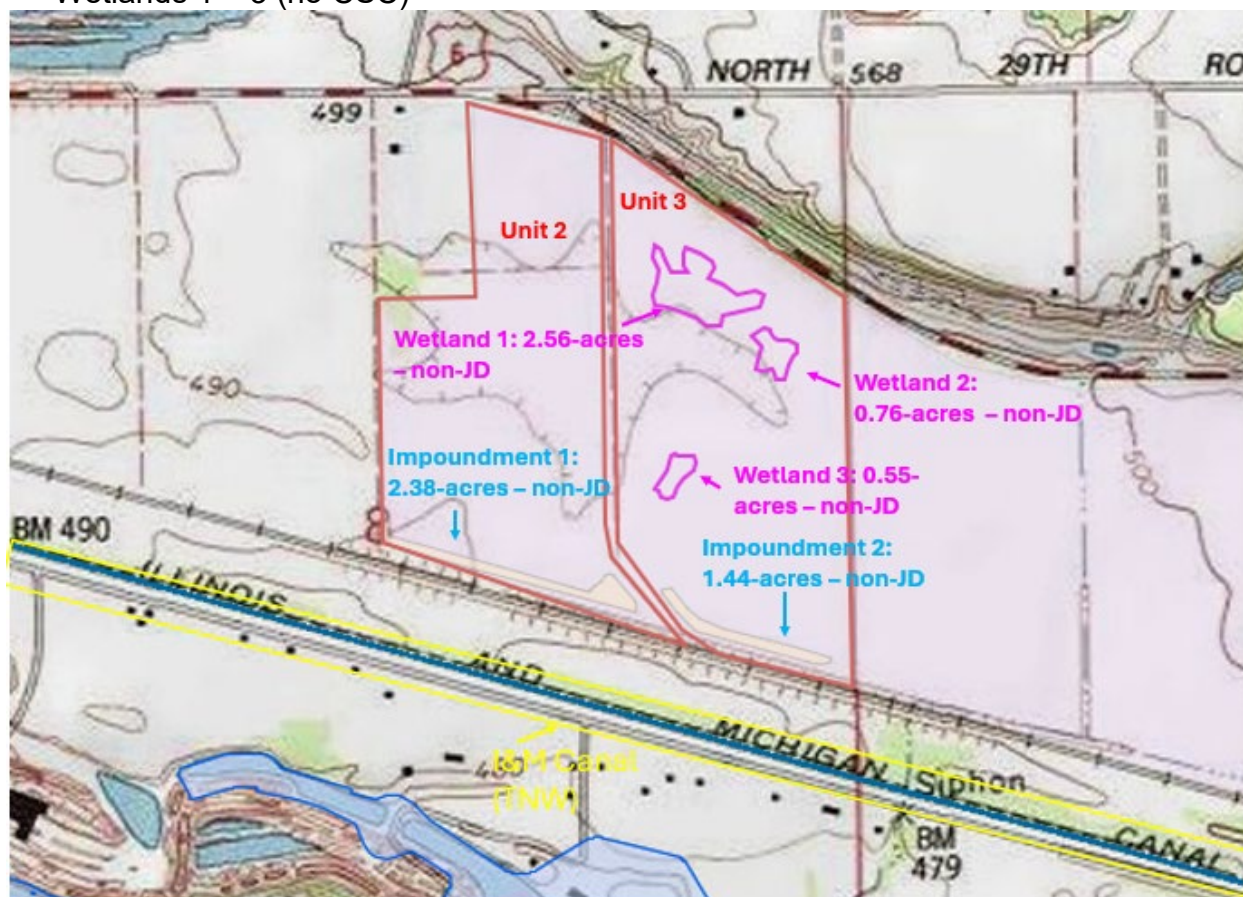
4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. These wetlands have no continuous surface connection (CSC) and is surrounded by uplands and there is no CSC to the Illinois and Michigan Canal<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> 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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5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER. Impoundment 1 and 2, and Wetlands 1 – 3 (no CSC)



6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS<sup>7</sup>: 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.<sup>8</sup> N/A

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> 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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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 2023 Rule as amended, 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 2023 Rule as amended. 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. Traditional Navigable Waters (TNWs) (a)(1)(i): N/A

b. The Territorial Seas (a)(1)(ii): N/A

c. Interstate Waters (a)(1)(iii): N/A

d. Impoundments (a)(2): N/A

e. Tributaries (a)(3): N/A

f. Adjacent Wetlands (a)(4): N/A

g. Additional Waters (a)(5): N/A

8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

a. Describe aquatic resources and other features within the review area identified in the 2023 Rule as amended as not "waters of the United States" even where they otherwise meet the terms of paragraphs (a)(2) through (5). Include the type of excluded aquatic resource or feature, the size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to meet one of the exclusions listed in 33 CFR 328.3(b).<sup>9</sup>

i. Impoundment 1 (Unit 2) (41.3462 / -88.7895) – 2.38 acres – non-jurisdictional. Impoundment 1 is an open-water impoundment constructed in an upland, adjacent to a railroad track. It is not a relocated stream or waters

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<sup>9</sup> 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023)

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- of the U.S. (WOTUS). Impoundment 1 is a generally non-jurisdictional feature; therefore, it is not subject to CWA jurisdiction and is not a WOTUS.
- ii. Impoundment 2 (Unit 3) (41.3452 / -88.7852) – 1.44 acres – non-jurisdictional. Impoundment 2 is an open-water impoundment constructed in an upland, adjacent to a railroad track. It is not a relocated stream or waters of the U.S. (WOTUS). Impoundment 1 is a generally non-jurisdictional feature; therefore, it is not subject to CWA jurisdiction and is not a WOTUS.
- b. 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 2023 Rule as amended (e.g., tributaries that are non-relatively permanent waters; non-tidal wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water).

Representative photo of Wetlands 1 – 3



- i. Wetland 1 (Unit 3) (41.3505 / -88.7861) – 2.56 acres – non-jurisdictional. Wetland 1 exhibits no CSC and is surrounded by uplands in the study area. The wetland is separated from an RPW by uplands and does not abut an RPW; therefore, the wetland lacks a CSC to a requisite RPW. The district has determined that this water is non-jurisdictional; therefore, it is not subject to CWA jurisdiction and is not a WOTUS.
- ii. Wetland 2 (Unit 3) (41.3496 / -88.7842) – 0.76 acres – non-jurisdictional. Wetland 2 exhibits no CSC and is surrounded by uplands in the study area. The wetland is separated from an RPW by uplands and does not abut an RPW; therefore, the wetland lacks a CSC to a requisite RPW. The district has

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determined that this water is non-jurisdictional; therefore, it is not subject to CWA jurisdiction and is not a WOTUS.

- iii. Wetland 3 (Unit 3) (41.3477 / -88.7862) – 0.55 acres – non-jurisdictional. Wetland 3 exhibits no CSC and is surrounded by uplands in the study area. The wetland is separated from an RPW by uplands and does not abut an RPW; therefore, the wetland lacks a CSC to a requisite RPW. The district has determined that this water is non-jurisdictional; therefore, it is not subject to CWA jurisdiction and is not a WOTUS.

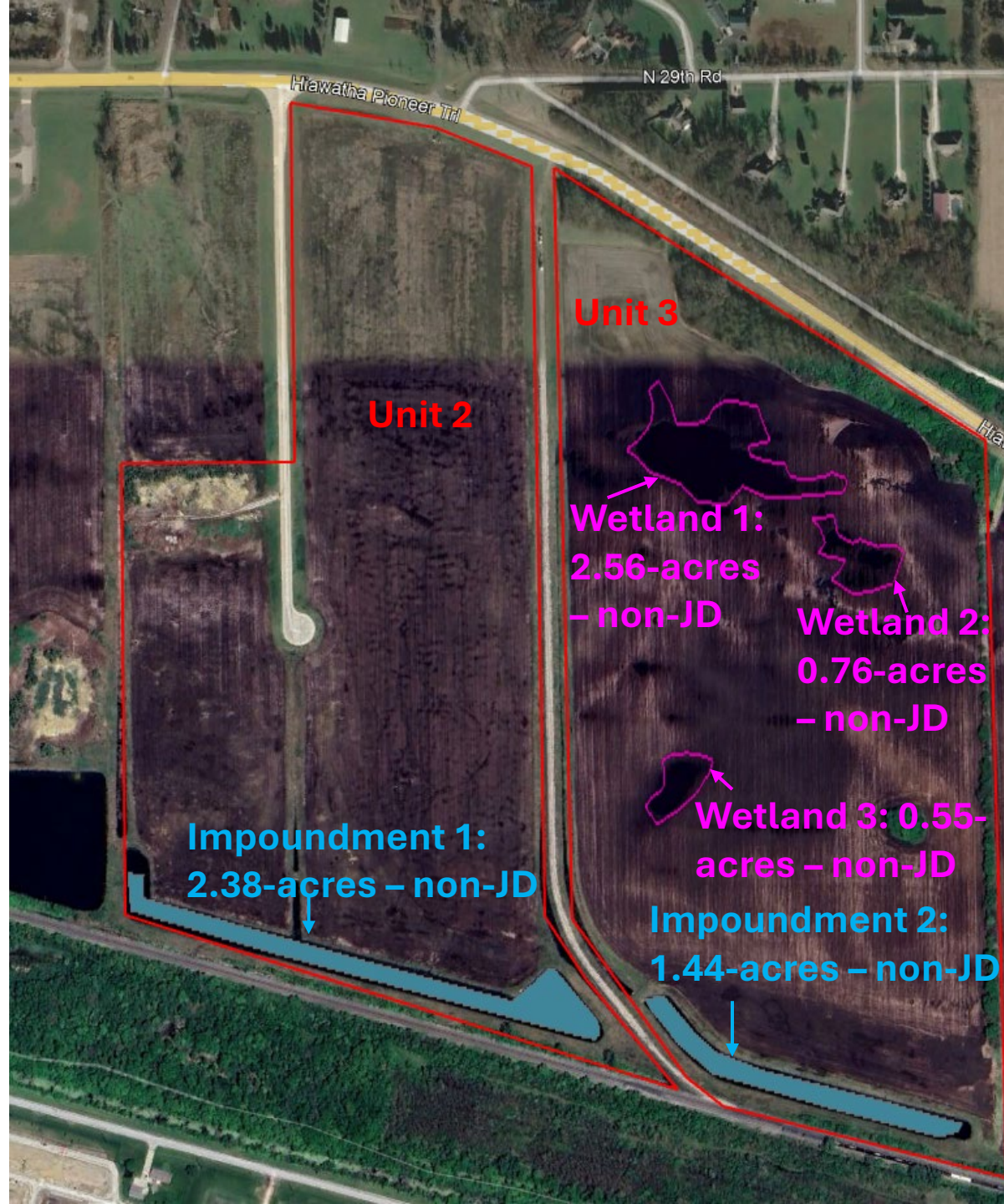
9. DATA SOURCES. List sources of data/information used in making determination. Include titles and dates of sources used and ensure that information referenced is available in the administrative record.

- a. Unit 2 and Unit 3 Wetland Delineation Report dated November 20, 2025. Reviewed January 13, 2026.
- b. National Regulatory Viewer (NRV): LiDAR w/hillshade, USGS topographic map. Accessed January 13, 2026.
- c. Google Earth aerial imagery dated June 2024. Accessed January 13, 2026.

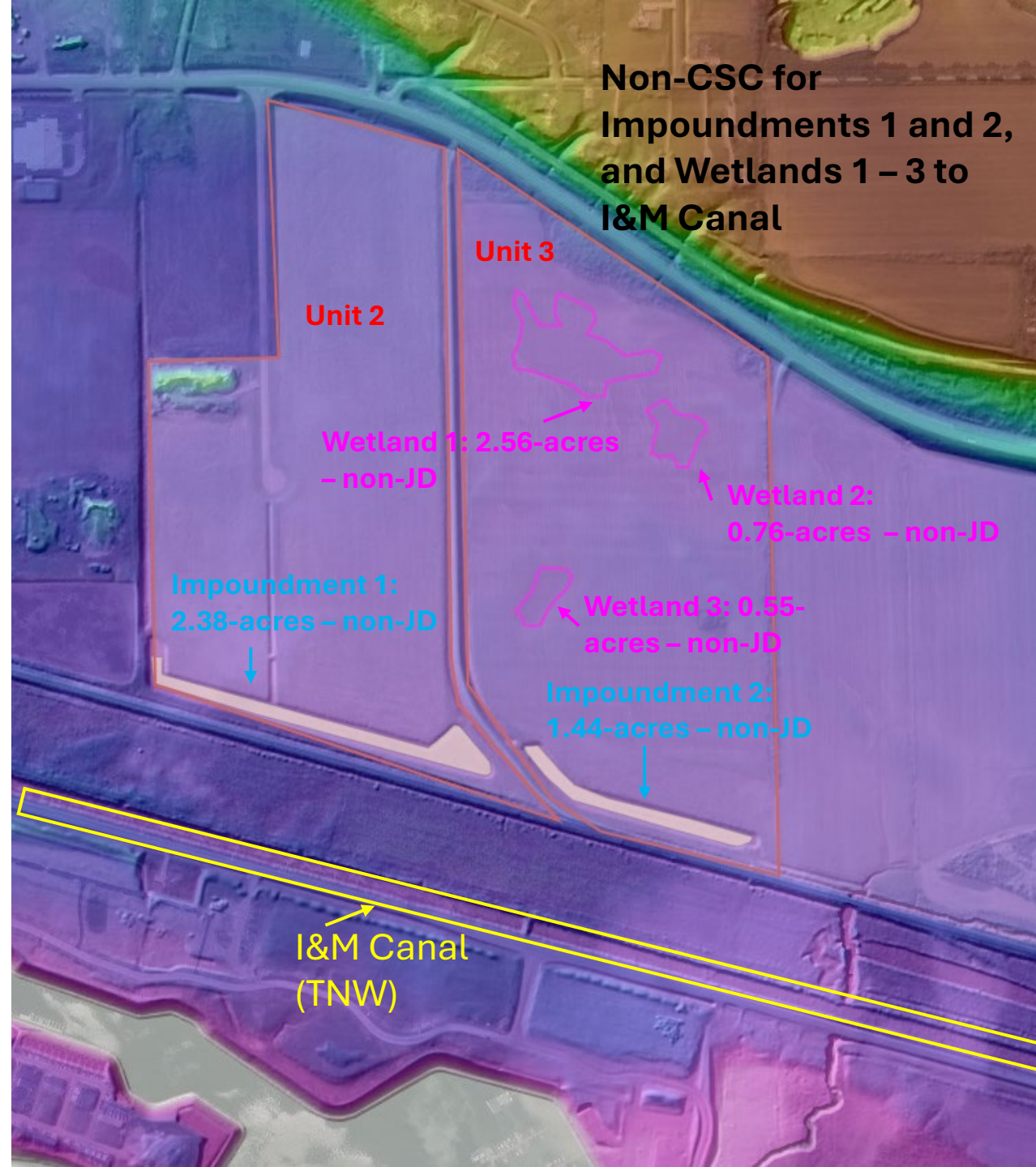
10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. N/A

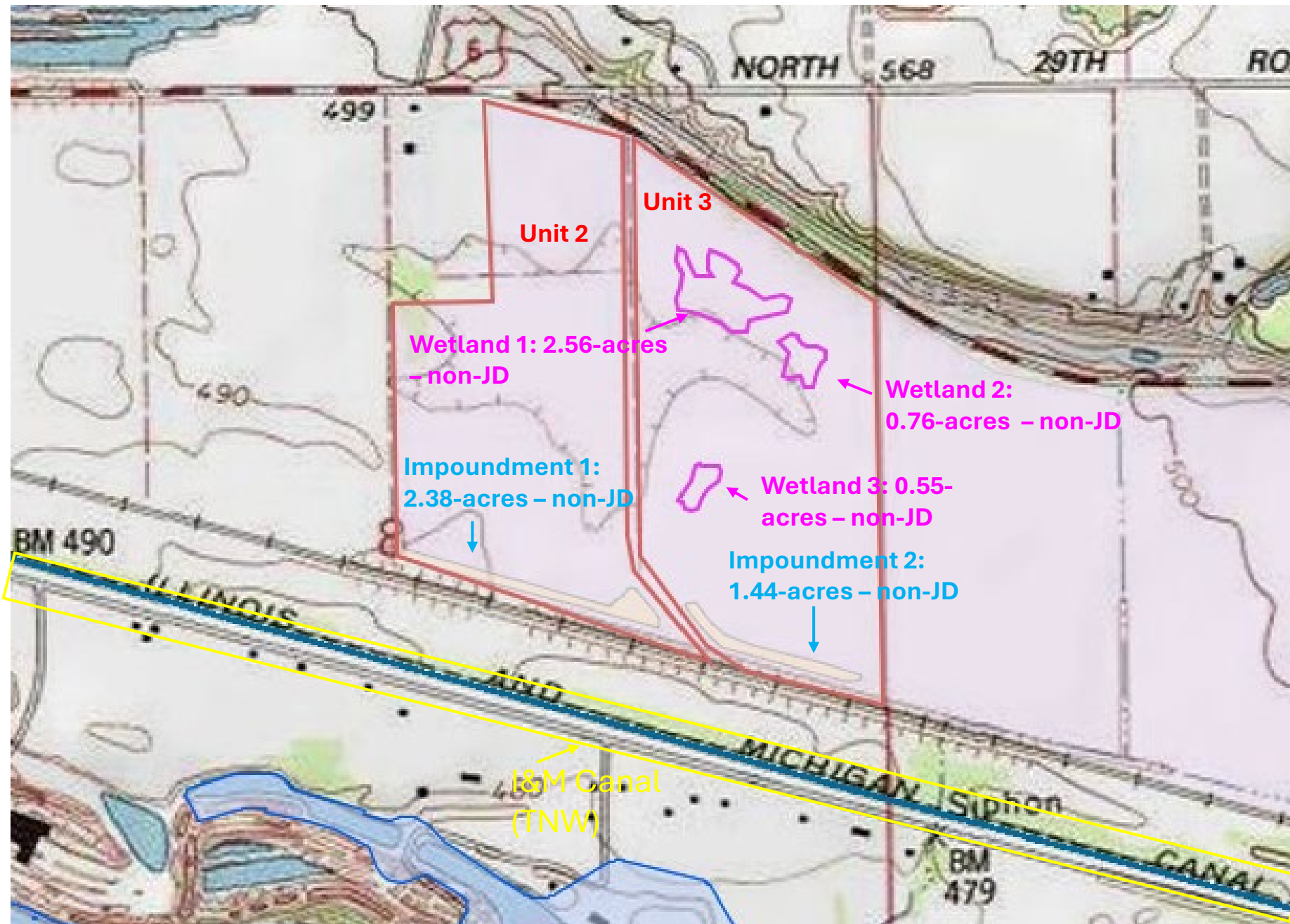
11. NOTE: The structure and format of this MFR were developed in coordination with the EPA and Department of the Army. The MFR's structure and format may be subject to future modification or may be rescinded as needed to implement additional guidance from the agencies; however, the approved jurisdictional determination described herein is a final agency action.

All aquatic resources  
on Units 2 and 3 are  
non-jurisdictional

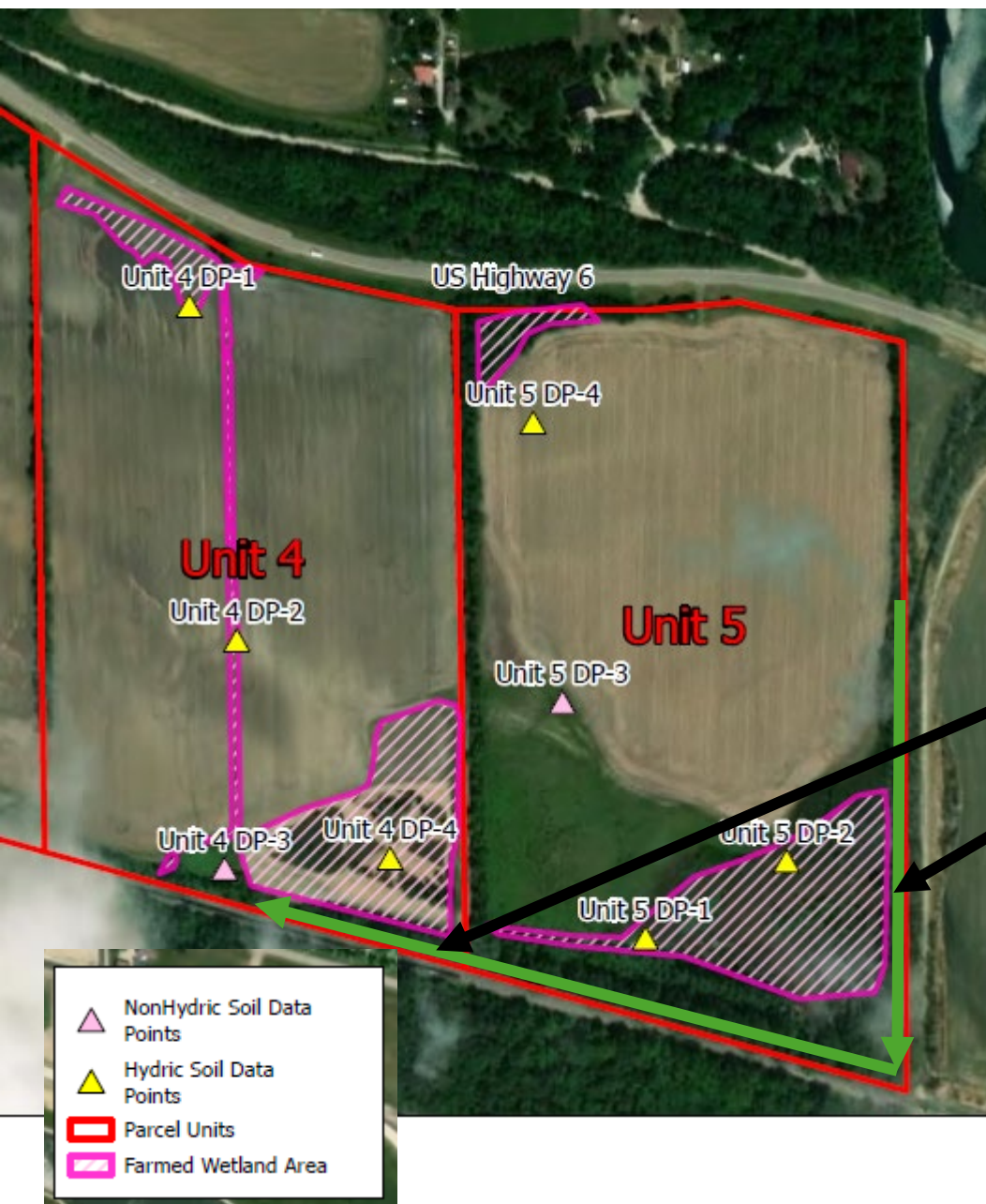


**Non-CSC for  
Impoundments 1 and 2,  
and Wetlands 1 – 3 to  
I&M Canal**





See separate document for PJD for Units 4 and 5



## Milliken Creek

~1,000LF in Unit 4

~2,650LF in Unit 5

