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Best available science (BAS) was used in the delineations of the wetlands within the Buckley property. As identified within the critical area report (dated 28 September 2015, revised 28 March 2016), shallow groundwater monitoring wells were installed across the western portion of the Site within the farm field. Monitoring wells were installed based on the most recent guidance from the Corps, the Technical Standard for Water-Table Monitoring of Potential Wetland Sites (USACE 2005). The wells indicated no wetland hydrology at all but three (3) wells. Please review Section 4.2.1 of the Critical Areas Report for a more detailed evaluation of the shallow groundwater monitoring well data.

Wetland A hydrology was assumed based on the presence of shallow groundwater levels in our monitoring wells that had previously been installed across the pasture and monitored for several weeks within the growing season. Well Number 22 was included within the delineation of Wetland A and was positive for wetland hydrology based on the monitoring period. Hydrophytic vegetation and hydric soils were present within the wetland.

Wetland B was a disturbed area within an old farm road. The presence of reduced iron, a primary indicator of wetland hydrology, was confirmed through the use of alpha-alpha-dipyridyl dye test in the field. As the delineations were conducted within the driest part of the year, it is not atypical to have few to none of the more common (more apparent) indicators of wetland hydrology. Hydrophytic vegetation was present as well.

Both Wetlands A and B were located at least partially within an old farm road located along the fenceline between the open field and the forested component of the Site. Soil compaction likely played a role in the creation of these wetlands due to their position in the landscape. However, the Corps does not distinguish between natural wetlands and those wetland created through anthropogenic activities for the purpose of deciding whether a feature meets the parameters to be considered a wetland.