CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

PIPELINE

(Ft.)

CODE 516

DEFINITION

Pipeline having an inside diameter of 8 inches or less.

PURPOSE

This practice may be applied as part of a resource management system to achieve one or more of the following purposes:

- Convey water from a source of supply to points of use for livestock, wildlife, or recreation.
- Reduce energy use.
- Develop renewable energy systems (i.e., in-pipe hydropower).

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

Where it is desirable or necessary to convey water in a closed conduit from one point to another.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Pipelines shall be designed to meet all service requirements such that internal pressure, including hydraulic transients or static pressure at any point is less than the pressure rating of the pipe.

Capacity. For livestock water, the installation shall have a capacity to provide seasonal high daily water requirements for the number and species of animals to be supplied. Animal water requirements can be obtained from the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, Reference #86; *Watering Systems for Grazing Livestock*, or from Midwest Plan Service (MWPS-1); *Structures and Environmental Handbook*.

For recreation areas, the water capacity shall be adequate for all planned uses. Typical examples are drinking water, fire protection, showers, flush toilets, and irrigation of landscaped areas. Additional water capacity will be provided for wildlife when applicable.

Sanitary protection. If water from the pipeline is to be used for human consumption, applicable state and local regulations shall be met.

Friction and Other Losses. For design purposes, head loss for hydraulic grade line computations shall be computed using one of the following equations: Manning's, Hazen-Williams, or Darcy-Weisbach. Equation selection shall be based on the given flow conditions and the pipe materials used. Other head losses (also called minor losses) from change in velocity and direction of flow due to inlet type, valves, bends, enlargements or contractions can be significant and shall be evaluated as appropriate. For closed, pressurized systems, the hydraulic grade line for all pipelines shall be maintained above the top of the pipeline at all locations for all flows unless specifically designed for negative internal pressures.

Pipe. All pipe must withstand the pressure it will be subjected to, including hydraulic transients, internal pressures and external pressures. As a safety factor against surge or water hammer, the working pressure should not exceed 72% of the pressure rating of the pipe and the design flow velocity at system capacity should not exceed 5 ft/sec. If either of these limits is exceeded, special consideration must be given to flow conditions and measures must be taken to adequately protect the pipeline against surge.

Flexible conduits such as plastic pipe, steel pipe, aluminum pipe, corrugated metal pipe, or ductile iron pipe, shall be designed using NRCS National Engineering Handbook (NEH) Part 636, Chapter 52, *Structural Design of Flexible Conduits.*

Steel pipe shall meet the requirements of AWWA Specification C-200.

Plastic pipe shall conform to the requirements of the following ASTM specifications, as applicable:

D 1527 Acrylonitrile-Butadiene-Styrene (ABS) Plastic Pipe, Schedules 40 and 80

D 1785 Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Plastic Pipe, Schedules 40, 80, and 120

D 2104 Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Pipe, Schedule 40

D 2239 Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Pipe (SIDR-PR) Based on Controlled Inside Diameter

D 2241 Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC), Pressure-Rated Pipe (SDR)

D 2282 Acrylonitrile-Butadiene-Styrene (ABS) Plastic Pipe (SDR-PR)

D 2447 Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Pipe, Schedules 40 and 80, Based on Outside Diameter

D 2513 Thermoplastic Gas Pressure Pipe, Tubing and Fittings

D 2737 Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Tubing

D 2672 Joints for IPS PVC Using Solvent Cement

D 3035 Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Pipe (SDR-PR) Based on Controlled Outside Diameter

AWWA C900 Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Pressure Pipe, 4 inches through 12 inches

AWWA C901 Polyethylene (PE) Pressure Pipe and Tubing, ½ inch through 3 inches

For smooth-wall aluminum pipe, the maximum allowable pressure of the pipe shall be determined using the hoop stress formula limiting the allowed tensile stress to 7,500 psi.

Joints and Connections. All connections shall be designed and constructed to withstand the pipeline working pressure without leakage and leave the inside of the pipeline free of any obstruction that would reduce capacity.

Permissible joint deflection shall be obtained from the manufacturer for the joint type and pipe material used.

For sloping steel pipe, expansion joints shall be placed adjacent to and downhill from anchors or thrust blocks.

For welded pipe joints, expansion joints shall be installed, as needed, to limit pipeline stresses to the allowable values.

For suspended pipelines, joints shall be designed for pipe loading including the water in the pipe, wind, ice, and the effects of thermal expansion and contraction.

Joints and connections for metal pipes should be of similar materials whenever possible. If dissimilar materials are used, the joints or connections shall be protected against galvanic corrosion.

Plastic pressure pipe fittings shall conform to the following ASTM specifications, as applicable:

D 2464 Threaded Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Plastic Pipe Fittings, Schedule 80

D 2466 Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Plastic Pipe Fittings, Schedule 40

D 2467 Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Plastic Pipe Fittings, Schedule 80

D 2468 Acrylonitrile-Butadiene-Styrene (ABS) Plastic Pipe Fittings, Schedule 40

D 2609 Plastic Insert Fittings for Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Pipe

D 2683 Socket-Type Polyethylene Fittings for Outside Diameter-Controlled Polyethylene Pipe and Tubing

D 3139 Joints for Plastic Pressure Pipes Using Flexible Elastomeric Seals

D 3261 Butt Heat Fusion Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Fittings for Polyethylene (PE) Plastic Pipe and Tubing

Solvents for solvent-welded plastic pipe joints shall conform to the following ASTM specifications, as applicable:

D 2235 Solvent Cement for Acrylonitrile-Butadiene-Styrene (ABS) Plastic Pipe and Fittings

D 2564 Solvent Cements for Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Plastic Pipe and Fittings

D 2855 Making Solvent-Cemented Joints with Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Pipe and Fittings

Rubber gaskets for pipe joints shall conform to the requirements of ASTM F477, Elastomeric Seals (Gaskets) for Joining Plastic Pipe.

Protection. When steel pipe is used, interior protective coatings shall be provided in accordance with Conservation Practice Standard PA430, Irrigation Pipeline. If a coal-tar enamel protective coating is needed for corrosion protection, the coating shall meet the requirements of AWWA Specification C-203.

Steel pipe installed above ground shall be galvanized or shall be protected with a suitable protective paint coating, including a primer coat and two or more final coats.

All metal to metal fittings, such as risers, bends, tees, and reducers, should be of similar metals. If dissimilar metals are used, the fittings shall be protected against galvanic corrosion (e.g., separate dissimilar metals with rubber or plastic insulator).

When cathodic protection is required, joints and connecting bands shall be electrically bridged to ensure continuous flow of current. A dielectric connection shall be placed between the pump and the pipeline and between pipes with different coatings.

The total current required, kind and number of anodes needed, and life expectancy for the cathodic protection shall be designed in accordance with NRCS Design Note 12, *Control of Underground Corrosion.*

Bolts used to join galvanized steel shall be galvanized; plastic coated, stainless steel, or otherwise protected to prevent galvanic corrosion. Bolts used to join aluminum, other than aluminum alloy bolts, must be plastic coated or otherwise protected to prevent galvanic corrosion.

Plastic pipe installed above ground shall be resistant to ultraviolet light throughout the intended life of the pipe. For plastic pipe, thermal effects must be properly factored into system design. Pressure ratings for pipes are normally based on a pipe temperature of 73.4ºF. When operating temperature is higher the effective pressure rating of the pipe shall be reduced accordingly. Values and procedures for pressure rating reduction shall follow information described in the NEH Part 636, Chapter 52.

All pipes shall be protected from hazards presented by traffic, farm operations, freezing temperatures, fire, thermal expansion and contraction. Reasonable measures should be taken to protect the pipe from potential vandalism.

Support of Pipe. Pipelines, both below and above ground, shall be supported, where needed, to provide stability against external and internal forces. Pipe support shall be designed using NEH Part 636, Chapter 52.

Thrust Control. Abrupt changes in pipeline grade, horizontal alignment, reduction in pipe size, or if the factors of safety for surge or water hammer are exceeded an anchor or thrust block, pressure regulator, or valve, to absorb any axial thrust of the pipeline will be required.

Thrust blocks and anchors must be large enough to withstand the forces tending to move the pipe, including those of momentum and pressure as well as forces due to expansion and contraction.

The pipe manufacturer's recommendations for thrust control shall be followed. In absence of the pipe manufacturer's requirements, design in accordance with NRCS NEH Part 636, Chapter 52; Structural Design of Flexible Conduits.

Depth of Cover. Buried pipe shall be installed at sufficient depth below the ground surface to provide protection from hazards imposed by traffic loads, farming operations, freezing temperatures, or soil cracking, as applicable.

Pipelines shall have sufficient strength to withstand all external loads on the pipe for the given installation conditions. Appropriate live loads shall be used for the anticipated traffic conditions.

Where it is not possible to achieve sufficient cover or sufficient strength, a carrier (encasement) pipe or other mechanical measures shall be used.

Pressure Reduction. Pressure reduction shall be incorporated in circumstances such as head gain exceeding pressure loss by a significant amount, excessive line pressured for the type of system, or excessive static pressures.

Inlets. Inlets shall be of adequate size for the type of entrance condition to ensure design flow capacity without excessive head losses.

Provision shall be made to prevent the inflow of trash or other materials into the pipeline if these materials would be detrimental to the pipe capacity or performance of the system.

For gravity flow inlets with square-edged or gated orifices, the nappe created by inflow at the orifice entrance shall be vented.

Water control structures, stands, Z-pipes and dog-legs are all acceptable inlet devices. Water control structures are commonly used for gravity flow pipelines, but do not account for removal of entrained air. Therefore, pipelines using these inlets must also meet the requirements listed under Vents.

Check Valves and Backflow Prevention. A check valve shall be installed between the pump discharge and the pipeline if detrimental backflow may occur. Check valves can cause extreme internal pressures, due to water hammer; if they close too fast as flow reversal occurs. "Non slam" type check valves or solenoid operated valves may be required.

Valves and Other Appurtenances. Pressure ratings of valves and other appurtenances shall equal or exceed the pipeline working pressure. When lever operated valves are used, an analysis shall be performed to evaluate potential surge/water hammer assuming an instantaneous valve closure.

Stands Open to the Atmosphere. Stands shall be used when water enters the pipeline to avoid entrapment of air; to prevent surge pressures and collapse because of vacuum failure; and to prevent pressure from exceeding the design working stress of the pipe. The stand shall be designed to:

- Allow a minimum of 1 foot of freeboard. The maximum height of the stand above the centerline of the mainline pipeline must not exceed the maximum working head of the pipe.
- Have the top of each stand at least 4 feet above the ground surface except for surface gravity inlets or where visibility is not a factor. Gravity inlets and stands shall be equipped with trash racks and covers.
- Have a downward water velocity in stands not in excess of 2 feet per second. The inside diameter of the stand shall not be less than the inside diameter of the pipeline.

The cross sectional area of stands may be reduced above a point 1 foot above the top of the upper inlet, but the reduced cross section shall not be such that it would produce an average velocity of more than 10 feet per second if the entire flow were discharging through it.

If the water velocity of an inlet pipe exceeds three times the velocity of the outlet, the centerline of the inlet shall have a minimum vertical offset from the centerline of the outlet at least equal to the sum of the diameters of the inlet and outlet pipes.

Stands shall be constructed of steel pipe or other approved material and be supported on a base adequate to support the stand and prevent movement or undue stress on the pipeline.

The size of float valve stands shall be adequate to provide accessibility for maintenance.

Stands must be constructed in a manner to insure vibration from the pump discharge pipe is not carried to the stand.

Pressure-relief valves can be used as an alternative to stands open to the atmosphere. A pressure-relief valve shall serve the pressure-relief function of the open stand or vent for which it is an alternative.

Stands Closed to the Atmosphere. If pressure-relief valves and air-and-vacuum valves are used instead of open stands, all requirements detailed in "Stands Open to the Atmosphere" shall apply except as modified below.

The inside diameter of the closed stand shall be equal to or greater than that of the pipeline for at least 1 foot above the top of the uppermost inlet of outlet pipe. To facilitate attaching the pressure-relief valve and the air-and-vacuum valve, the stand may be capped at this point, or if additional height is required, the stand may be extended to the desired elevation by using the same inside diameter or a reduced cross section. If a reduced section is used, the cross-sectional area shall be such that it would produce an average velocity of no more than 10 feet per second if the entire flow were discharged though it. If no vertical offset is required between the pump discharge pipe and the outlet pipeline and the discharge pipe is "dog-legged" below ground, the stand shall

extend at least 1 foot above the highest part of the pump discharge pipe.

An acceptable alternative design for stands requiring no vertical inlet offset (when inlet velocity is less than three times that of the outletting pipeline) shall be:

- Construct the dog-leg section of the pump discharge pipe with the same nominal pipe diameter as that of the pipeline.
- Install the pressure-relief valve and the air-and-vacuum valve on top of the upper horizontal section of the dog-leg.

Pressure-relief and air-and-vacuum valves shall be installed on stands with the nominal size pipe required to fit the valves' threaded inlets.

Surge Tanks and Air Chambers. If surge tanks and/or air chambers are required for control of hydraulic transients or water column separation, they shall have adequate size to ensure the water volume needs of the pipeline are met without the tank/chamber being emptied, and that the required flow into the pipeline for the calculated pressure drop is met.

Pressure Relief Valves. A pressure relief (PR) valve shall be installed between the pump discharge and the pipeline if excessive pressure can build up when all valves are closed. If needed to protect the pipeline against pressure-reducing valve malfunction or failure, PR valves shall be installed downstream of pressure reducing valves.

Manufacturers of PR valves marketed for use under this standard shall provide capacity tables that give the discharge capacities of the valves at the maximum permissible pressure and differential pressure settings. These tables shall be based on performance tests, and shall be the basis for acceptance of these valves and selection of the design pressure setting.

PR valves shall be set to open at a pressure as low as practical, but no greater than 5 psi above the pressure rating or maximum allowable pressure of the pipe. The valves shall have sufficient flow capacity to reduce the excessive pressures in the pipeline. In lieu, of a detailed surge/pressure analysis, the minimum size of PR valve shall be ¼ inch nominal valve size per inch of the nominal pipeline diameter.

The pressure at which the valves start to open shall be marked on each PR valve. Adjustable PR valves shall be sealed or otherwise altered to prevent changing the adjustment from that marked on the valve.

Vents. Venting must be designed into systems open to the atmosphere to provide for the removal and entry of air and protection from surge. The following criteria shall apply:

Vents shall have a minimum freeboard of 1 foot above the hydraulic gradeline at design capacity. The maximum height of the vent above the centerline of the pipeline must not exceed the maximum allowable working pressure of the pipe.

A vent chamber shall be constructed to intercept and/or capture air within the pipeline. The chamber shall intercept the circumference arc of 75 degrees at the top of the pipe (i.e., a vent chamber diameter of 2/3 the diameter of the pipeline). The chamber shall extend vertically at least one pipeline diameter up from the centerline of the pipeline. Above this elevation, the vent chamber may be reduced to minimum diameter of 2 inches.

When an AVR or COMB valve is used instead of a vent, the above requirements shall apply except that the reduced section shall be sized to meet the nominal pipe size required to fit the valve's threaded inlet. An acceptable alternative is to install the valve(s) in the side of a service outlet, provided that the service outlet riser is properly located and adequately sized. If both AVR and PR valves are required at the location, the 10 feet per second velocity criteria given under the "Stands Open to the Atmosphere" section of this standard, shall apply to the reduced section.

Vent chambers shall be installed on all open vents and closed vents with air valves, when the normal operating pressure of the pipe is 10 psi or less.

A vent shall be located at the downstream end of laterals, at summits in the line, and at points where the grade changes more than 10 degrees in a downward direction of flow.

Drainage. Valves or unions shall be installed at low points in the pipeline so that the line can be drained as needed. Check valves shall be

installed as needed to protect groundwater quality or maintain a full pipeline.

Vegetation. Disturbed areas shall be established with vegetation or otherwise stabilized as soon as practical after construction. Seedbed preparation, seeding, fertilizing, and mulching shall conform to Conservation Practice Standard PA342, Critical Area Planting.

Visual resources. The visual design of pipelines and appurtenances in areas of high public visibility shall be carefully considered.

Additional Criteria Applicable to Reduce Energy Use

Provide analysis to demonstrate reduction of energy use from practice implementation.

Reduction of energy use is calculated as average annual or seasonal energy reduction compared to previous operating conditions.

Additional Criteria Applicable to Develop Renewable Energy Systems

Renewable energy systems shall meet applicable design criteria in NRCS and/or industry standards, and shall be in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Hydropower systems shall be designed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the Microhydropower Handbook, Sections 4 and 5, as appropriate.

CONSIDERATIONS

Environment. Base pipe material selection on exposure considerations (such as soil resistivity, pH, sunlight, and traffic). Soil texture, resistivity, pH, moisture content, redox potential and depth are important soil properties to be aware of for pipelines and in reducing soil limitations related to corrosivity, or packing of soil material. Refer to soil survey information of the area and on-site soil investigations should be considered during planning.

Pipelines installed below the ground surface should have a soil plan describing soil reconstruction of disturbed soil during and after pipeline installation so original soil productivity is restored after pipeline installation. Appropriate vegetation should be established to stabilize disturbed areas that will not be cropped.

Economic. Economics can be a major factor in pipeline design, as follows:

- Select pipe based on lifetime energy requirements, as well as initial costs of materials.
- Select pipe material based upon expected life of practice.
- Consider hydropower applications as alternatives to use of pressure reduction valves or reduced pipe diameter to induce friction loss.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for installing pipelines shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose. If the pipeline is a component of a system that includes additional conservation practices, the information necessary to construct these additional practices will also be conveyed on the plans.

As a minimum the plans and specifications shall include:

- A plan view of the layout of the pipeline.
- Profile of the pipeline.
- Pipe material and sizes, including coatings, if any.
- Pipe joint requirements.
- All vents, valves, supports, etc.
- Site specific construction specifications that describe in writing the installation of the pipeline. Include the specification for pressure testing of the pipeline.
- Depth of cover and backfill requirements.
- Disposal requirements for excess soil material.
- Vegetative establishment requirements.

The NRCS Engineering Field Handbook, Chapter 5, Preparation of Engineering Plans, will guide the development of drawings and specifications.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

An O&M plan specific to the type of installed pipeline shall be provided to the landowner.

The plan shall include, but not be limited to, the following provisions:

- Opening/closing valves to prevent excessive water hammer;
- Filling at the specified rate requirements;
- Inspecting and testing valves, pressure regulators, pumps, switches and other appurtenances;
- Maintaining erosion protection at outlets;
- Checking for debris, minerals, algae and other materials which may restrict system flow; and
- Draining and/or providing for cold weather operation of the system.
- Monitoring of any cathodic protection systems.

REFERENCES

McKinney, J.D., et al. Microhydropower Handbook, IDO-10107, Volumes 1 & 2. U.S. Department of Energy, Idaho Operations Office.

Midwest Plan Service (MWPS-1); Structures and Environmental Handbook

NRCS Field Technical Guide, Reference #86; Watering Systems for Grazing Livestock

USDA-NRCS, National Engineering Handbook, Part 636, Chapter 52; Structural Design of Flexible Conduits.

USDA-NRCS, National Engineering Handbook, Part 650, Engineering Field Handbook, Chapter 5, Preparation of Engineering Plans.

USDA-NRCS, Engineering Design Note 12, *Control of Underground Corrosion*.