

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

PUMPING PLANT

(No.)

CODE 533

DEFINITION

A facility that delivers water at a designed pressure and flow rate. Includes the required pump(s), associated power unit(s), plumbing, appurtenances, and may include on-site fuel or energy source(s), and protective structures.

PURPOSE

This practice is used to achieve one or more of the following:

- Delivery of water for irrigation, watering facilities, wetlands, or fire protection
- Removal of excessive subsurface or surface water
- Provide efficient use of water on irrigated land
- Transfer of animal waste as part of a manure transfer system
- Improvement of energy use efficiency
- Improvement of air quality

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies where conservation objectives require the addition of energy to pressurize and transfer water to maintain critical water levels in soils, wetlands, or reservoirs; transfer wastewater; or remove surface runoff or groundwater.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Pump requirements. Design flow rate, range of operating heads, and pump type shall meet the requirements of the application. The pump or combination of pumps shall be capable of

delivering the design flow rate at the total dynamic head required. Pump efficiency over the range of operating conditions shall be considered while developing pump specifications.

Selection of pump materials shall be based on the physical and chemical qualities of the material being pumped and manufacturer's recommendations.

Power units. Pump power units shall be selected based on the availability and cost of power, operating conditions, need for automation, and other site specific objectives. Power units shall match the pump requirements and be capable of operating efficiently and effectively within the planned range of conditions. The power unit(s) shall be sized to operate the pump(s) at the maximum power requirement (normally at maximum flow rate) without being in an overload condition. Things that affect efficiency shall be considered when sizing the power unit, including components that use energy such as cooling fans, and environmental conditions such as temperature and elevation.

Electric power units may include line power, photovoltaic panels, and wind or water powered turbines.

Electrical wiring shall meet the requirements of the National Electrical Code and other applicable State or Local laws or regulations.

Variable Frequency Drives. The cooperators shall ensure that the electric power provider is informed that a Variable Frequency Drive will be installed prior to installation, and be responsible for following requirements of the electric power provider.

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The Variable Frequency Drive shall be protected against overheating.

The Variable Frequency Drive control panel shall provide the read out display of flow rate or pressure.

Photovoltaic panels. The photovoltaic array (solar panels) shall be sized based on average data for the location and the time of year pumping occurs, according to manufacturer's recommendations. The photovoltaic array shall provide the power necessary to operate the pump at the design flow rate, with the appropriate service factor considering a minimum panel degradation of 10 years. Fixed arrays shall be oriented to receive maximum sunlight. Panel tilt angle shall be based on the location latitude and time of year for power requirements. Panels shall be mounted securely to resist movement by environmental factors.

Windmills. Pumping units shall be sized according to pumping lifts and capacities, as specified by the manufacturer. The diameter of the mill shall be based on the stroke length and the average wind speed. Towers shall be proportioned to the mill diameter, with adequate height for efficient and safe operation.

Water powered pumps (hydraulic rams). Pumping units shall be sized according to flow rate, lift, fall, and efficiency. Bypass water shall be returned to the stream or storage facility, without erosion or impairment to water quality.

Suction and discharge pipes. To prevent cavitation, suction and discharge pipes shall be designed to account for suction lift, net positive suction head, pipe diameter and length, minor losses, temperature, and altitude. The size of suction and discharge pipes shall be based on hydraulic analysis, operating costs, and compatibility with other system components.

Appurtenances such as gate or butterfly valves, check valves, pressure reducing valves, pressure gages, pipe connections, and other protective devices, shall be included to meet the requirements of the application.

Screens, filters, trash racks, or other devices shall be installed as needed to prevent the

intake of sand, gravel, debris, or other objectionable material into the pump. Intake screens shall be designed according to applicable Federal and State guidelines, to avoid entrainment or trapping of aquatic organisms.

Backflow prevention devices shall be included according to Federal, State, and Local laws, to prevent contamination of water sources connected to the pumping plant.

Buildings and accessories. Pumps shall be securely mounted on a solid foundation such as pilings or concrete. Foundations shall be designed to safely support the loads imposed by the pumping plant and appurtenances. Sheet piling or other measures shall be used, as required, to prevent piping beneath the foundation.

At a minimum the pumping plant shall be protected from rain or irrigation water and the afternoon sun. Provisions shall be included for adequate ventilation and accessibility for equipment maintenance, repairs, or removal. Minimum clearance between protective features and power units or electrical panels shall be 12 inches.

Suction bays or sumps shall be designed to prevent the introduction of air at the intake.

The discharge bay or the connection to the distribution system shall meet all hydraulic and structural requirements.

Structures and equipment shall be designed to provide adequate safety features to protect operators, workers, and the public from potential injury. Drive shaft covers shall be required on all exposed rotating shafts.

Additional Criteria Applicable to Providing the Efficient Use of Water on Irrigated Land

Provisions for the connection of flow and pressure measurement devices shall be included in pumping plant system design.

Additional Criteria Applicable to the Improvement of Energy Use Efficiency

For fossil fuel or electrical grid power sources, pumping plant installations shall meet or exceed the Nebraska Pumping Plant

Performance Criteria. Refer to the NRCS National Engineering Handbook, Part 652, National Irrigation Guide, Table 12-2.

Additional Criteria Applicable to the Improvement of Air Quality

Replacement pumping plants shall have lower total emissions of oxides of nitrogen and fine particulate matter, compared to the unit being replaced.

New, replacement, or retrofitted pumping equipment shall utilize a non-combustion power source, or cleaner-burning technologies or fuels.

CONSIDERATIONS

When planning this practice, the following should be considered as applicable:

- The removal of surface water by a pumping plant can affect downstream flows or aquifer recharge volumes. Consider potential long term impacts downstream of the pumping plant.
- If using a pumping plant to remove surface water or ground water flowing into a wetland, consider the potential impacts on existing wetland hydrology.
- The operation and maintenance of a pumping plant can involve the use of fuels and lubricants that when spilled may adversely affect surface or ground water quality. Consider measures to protect the environment from potential spills. In some cases, secondary containment of spilled fuel may be required by Federal and State laws or regulations.
- Pumping plants are often constructed in flood-prone areas or can be subject to other unexpected natural events. Consider how the pumping plant may be protected from extreme natural events and the consequences of damage or failure.
- Include safety features to detect and avoid problems that would otherwise result from low or stopped flow, or pressures that are too high or too low.
- The visual appearance of buildings or structures associated with the pumping

plant should be compatible with the surrounding environment.

- When installing new or replacing existing combustion equipment, non-combustion and renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and water, should be considered.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for constructing pumping plants shall be in accordance with this standard and describe the requirements for properly installing the practice to achieve its intended purpose. As a minimum, the plans and specifications shall include the following:

- A plan view showing the location of the pumping plant in relationship to other structures or natural features.
- Detail drawings and/or written specifications of the pumping plant and appurtenances such as sump, screening and filtration components, piping, inlet and outlet connections, mounting, foundations, valves, and other structural components.
- Written specifications that describe the site specific details of installation. At a minimum these specifications shall include flow rate, total dynamic head, and minimum pump efficiency for at least one design point. They should also include minimum power unit capacity and efficiency at capacity.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

An Operation and Maintenance plan specific to the pumping plant being installed shall be prepared for use by the owner and responsible operator. The plan shall provide specific instructions for operating and maintaining facilities to ensure the pumping plant functions properly as designed. As a minimum, the plan shall address the following:

- Inspection or testing of all pumping plant components and appurtenances.
- Proper start-up and shut-down procedures for the operation of the pumping plant.
- Routine maintenance of all mechanical components (power unit, pump, drive

train, etc.) in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

- Procedures to protect the system from damage due to freezing temperatures.
- When applicable, procedures to frequently check the power unit, fuel storage facilities, and fuel lines, for leaks and repair as needed.
- Periodic checks and removal of debris as necessary from trash racks and structures, to assure adequate flow capacity reaching the pumping plant intake.
- Periodic removal of sediment in suction bays, to maintain design capacity and efficiency.
- Inspection and maintenance of anti-siphon devices, if applicable.
- Routine testing and inspection of all automated components of the pumping

plant, to assure the proper functioning as designed.

- Inspection and maintenance of secondary containment facilities, if applicable.
- Periodic inspection of all safety features, to ensure proper placement and function.
- Prior to retrofitting any electrically powered equipment, electrical service must be disconnected and the absence of stray electrical current verified.

REFERENCES

NRCS National Engineering Handbook, Part 652, National Irrigation Guide

NRCS National Engineering Handbook, Part 623, Chapter 8, Irrigation Pumping Plants.

NRCS National Engineering Handbook, Part 624, Drainage Pumping..