

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR
WELL DECOMMISSIONING**

CODE 351

Name _____

Ident. No. _____

Legal Desc. _____

County _____

A decommissioned well must be maintained to ensure its proper function. This structure was designed and installed to do the following:

- Prevent entry of vermin, debris, or other foreign substances into the well or well bore hole
- Eliminate the physical hazard of an open hole to people, animals, and farm machinery
- Prevent entry of contaminated surface water into well and migration of contaminants into the unsaturated (vadose) zone or saturated zone
- Prevent the commingling of chemically or physically different groundwaters between separate water-bearing zones
- Eliminate the possibility of the well being used for any other purpose
- Conserve yield and hydrostatic head of aquifers

The life of this installation can be assured by developing and carrying out a good maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic maintenance for satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

General Recommendations

- Inspect the site of the decommissioned well periodically to make sure the decommissioned well or the adjacent area has not settled or eroded.
- Maintain the site to prevent ponding of surface runoff.
- Maintain the site to prevent erosion.
- Maintain proper vegetation on a disturbed area if the area is not being farmed.

Specific Recommendations

If you need additional technical assistance to implement the operation and maintenance plan for this structure, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at your local USDA Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government).