NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL

(acre)

CODE 500

DEFINITION

Removal and disposal of unwanted, unsightly or hazardous buildings, structures, vegetation, landscape features, and other materials.

PURPOSE

To safely remove and dispose of unwanted obstructions and materials in order to apply conservation practices or facilitate planned use of abandoned mine lands, farms, ranches, construction sites, and recreation areas.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On land where existing obstructions interfere with planned use and development, but not where regulated under section 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act.

CRITERIA

Obstruction removal shall be planned, designed, and carried out to meet all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Rock piles, boulders, stones, fences, hedgerows, abandoned buildings and structures, trash, and similar obstruction that would interfere with planned use and development shall be removed. All debris such as broken concrete and masonry, structural steel, wood, stones, stumps, slash, and sterile or toxic soil material shall be disposed of so that they will not impede subsequent work or cause damage to offsite or other areas.

Disposal shall be by burning, burying, or removing to an approved landfill in an environmentally acceptable manner. Burning of demolition debris must be approved by the Kentucky Division of Waste Management.

Materials such as asbestos, underground fuel storage tanks, objects painted with lead base paint, or any other materials considered hazardous or toxic may require notification to the Kentucky Division of Waste Management before removal, transportation, and disposal.

All recyclable materials should be deposited at proper recycling facilities.

All required gully shaping shall be performed to specified dimensions and grades. Fills shall be compacted to the required density. The cover over buried materials shall be designed to be adequate for the planned use, treatment, and vegetation. Historical or archaeological significant and scenic values shall be identified and preserved as appropriate.

Appropriate erosion control practices shall be applied on disturbed areas.

Vegetative Measures. Liming, fertilizing, seeding, and sodding shall be completed according to the planned use and NRCS Conservation Practice Standard, Critical Area Planting, Code (342). If vegetation is not appropriate, other measures shall be used to prevent erosion.

CONSIDERATIONS

Water Quantity. Obstruction Removal will have an effect on the water budget, especially on volumes and rates of runoff, and infiltration.

Water Quality. Water quality can be adversely impacted during initial construction due to erosion. If sediment control measures such as straw bale

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

barriers, silt fencing, etc. are used, there should be an overall positive impact on water quality by removal and proper disposal of potential pollutants and toxic materials.

Collection and proper disposal of surface water as in improving and stabilizing sinkhole inlets should be considered. Any modifications / alterations to sinkholes for receiving surface water requires approval by the Kentucky Division of Water. Measures should be taken to remove pollutants (oil, pesticides, fertilizers, etc.), sediment, and debris from entering the sinkhole.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for obstruction removal shall be prepared in accordance with the criteria of this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice and achieving its intended use.

The operation and maintenance (O&M) plan shall specify that the treatment areas and associated practices be inspected annually and after significant storm events to identify repair and maintenance needs. The O&M plan shall detail the level of repairs needed to maintain the effectiveness and useful life of the practice.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE