

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATION**

**DIKE**  
**(feet)**  
**CODE 356**

**SCOPE**

This specification covers the construction of Class II and III dikes. Construction shall be in accordance with the construction plans and these specifications.

**INSTALLATION**

**Foundation preparation.** The foundation area shall be cleared of all trees, stumps, roots, brush, boulders, sod, and debris. All channel banks and sharp breaks shall be sloped no steeper than 1:1. Topsoil which is high in organic matter shall be removed. The surface of the foundation area shall be thoroughly scarified before placement of the embankment material.

The cutoff trench, where used, shall be excavated to lines and grades as shown on the plans. It shall be backfilled with suitable material in a manner as specified for earth embankment. The necessary degree of compaction shall be obtained by using equipment adapted to site conditions. The trench shall be kept free of standing water, if feasible, during backfill operations. The material from cutoff trench may be placed within the dike section if suitable.

**Conduit installation.** Any conduits through a dike shall be placed on a firm foundation to the lines and grades shown on the plans. Selected backfill material shall be placed in layers around the conduits and their component parts and each successive layer shall be thoroughly compacted.

**Embankment construction.** The embankment shall be constructed to the lines, grades, and cross sections shown on the drawings and/or as staked in the field.

The embankment material may be obtained from a selected borrow area or from a channel. In the construction of borrow trenches on the water side of the dike, an unexcavated plug at least 25 feet wide shall be left at intervals not to exceed 1320 feet.

The fill material shall be free of organic matter and other objectionable material. Placing and spreading of fill shall begin on the lowest part of the working area and continue in horizontal layers of approximate uniform thickness, preferably 6 inches thick but not more than 18 inches thick, depending on the equipment used. Where the borrow yields materials of varying texture and gradation, the more impervious material shall be placed toward the water side of the dike. The construction equipment shall be operated over the area of each layer in a manner to break up large clods and obtain adequate compaction.

Fill material shall be moist but not too wet for equipment operations and shaping. Water shall be added to the fill material where it is too dry to permit compaction.

Dumped fill, where used, shall be placed in layers or deposited in a manner suitable to the equipment used and the material excavated. Shaping shall be done so as to break up lumps and clods of earth. Excessively wet material shall be placed to permit free drainage and shaped

after it has drained. When the fill slumps due to wetness, the dike shall be constructed in stages.

**Protective cover.** Suitable vegetative cover shall be established on all exposed surfaces of the completed structure and borrow areas.

### **SAFETY**

Landowners or operators, sponsoring organizations, and contractors are liable for damage to utilities and damage resulting from disruption of service caused by construction activities. The Natural Resources Conservation Service makes no representation on the existence or nonexistence of any utilities. Absence of utilities on plan drawings is not assurance that no utilities are present at the site.

It is the responsibility of the landowner or operator to determine if there are buried or overhead utilities in the vicinity of the proposed work. They should take proper procedures to insure that the utilities will not be jeopardized and that equipment operators and others will not be injured during construction operations.