

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE
FOR YOUR
IRRIGATION WATER CONVEYANCE, HIGH-
PRESSURE, UNDERGROUND, PLASTIC PIPELINE**

OPERATOR: _____ DATE: _____

TAX MAP KEY OF PRACTICE LOCATION: _____

NRCS OFFICE: _____ PHONE: _____

A properly operated and maintained irrigation pipeline is an asset to your farm. This irrigation pipeline is designed and installed to transmit water to where it may be utilized. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 years. The life of this pipeline can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

OPERATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Filling an empty pipeline must be done gradually. Air must be allowed to escape as water fills the pipe. As a minimum open the farthest valve and valves located at peaks and valleys. Gradually close the valves starting from the farthest valve.
- System should be operated at the recommended pressure to insure a uniform distribution of water.
- Limit traffic over the pipeline to designated sections that are designed for traffic loads.
- Avoid travel over pipelines by tillage equipment when the soil is saturated.
- Avoid any subsoiling operation that may disturb the pipeline.
- Always open and close valves very slowly.
