

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

VIRGINIA

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

IRRIGATION RESERVOIR

CODE 436

Land Owner/Operator _____

County _____ SWCD _____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By _____ Date _____

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

A properly operated and maintained irrigation storage reservoir can be an asset to the farm. The reservoir was designed and installed to conserve water by holding it in storage until it is used to meet crop irrigation requirements. Estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of the reservoir can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a systematic operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require periodic maintenance and may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. Your operation and maintenance program includes:

- Inspect the reservoir periodically, especially after heavy rains to determine whether it is functioning properly or if repairs are needed. Periodically remove sediment to maintain design capacity.
- Periodically inspect the spillways and control gates for their ability to maintain the water level to design elevations. Immediately remove any blockage or obstructions in spillways. Do not manipulate the water level established by the outlet structure to raise the water level above the planned elevation.
- Conduct periodic cleaning and re-grading of collection facilities to maintain proper flow lines and functionality. Remove sediment from traps and/or storage facilities to maintain design capacity and efficiency.
- Inspect or test all pipelines and pumping plant components and appurtenances, as applicable. Conduct routine maintenance of all mechanical components in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.
- Perform water quality analysis as necessary to evaluate nutrients, pesticides, and pathogens.
- Keep appurtenances such as trash racks, outlet structures and gates free of trash and replace as necessary. Remove debris that may accumulate at the embankment and immediately upstream or downstream from the reservoir. Keep screens and/or rodent guards in place. If fences are installed, maintain them to prevent unauthorized livestock entry.

