

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL

(Ac.)

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 or pose an environmental hazard.

CRITERIA

Obstruction removal shall be planned, designed, and carried out in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Rock piles, boulders, stones, fences, hedgerows, abandoned buildings and structures, trash, and similar obstructions that would interfere with planned use and development shall be removed. All debris, such as broken concrete and masonry, structural steel and wood, stones, stumps, slash, and sterile or toxic soil, 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.

All required gully shaping shall be performed to specified dimensions and grades. Fills shall be compacted as appropriate. The cover over buried materials shall be designed to be adequate for the planned use, treatment, and vegetation.

Historical or archaeologically signification and scenic values shall be identified and preserved as appropriate.

Appropriate erosion control practices shall be applied on disturbed areas. Selection of vegetation shall be in accordance with the *Plant Establishment Guide For Virginia* and Virginia Conservation Practice Standard *Critical Area Planting (Code 342)*.

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the effects upon components of the water budget, especially effects on volume and rate of runoff, infiltration, evaporation, transpiration, deep percolation, and groundwater recharge.

Assess the effects on the visual quality or downstream water resources.

Consider short-term and construction –related effects on the quality of water resources.

Assess the potential for uncovering or redistributing toxic materials. Local hazardous waste officials will be contacted prior to any

work where known toxics exist. If unknown toxics are located, all work will cease until local officials are contacted.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

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

DESIGN DATA

Engineering plans, specifications, and reports shall include but not be limited to the following:

1. Completed Environmental Evaluation (Form VA-EE-1) and subsequent requirements.
2. Plan view of site with existing and planned features, including dimensions, distances, etc.
3. Standard Cover Sheet (VA-SO-100A).
4. Materials and quantities needed.
5. Vegetation and/or ground cover requirements.
6. Identification of needed Erosion & Sediment Control measures
7. Virginia Conservation Practice Specifications (700 Series).
8. Operation and Maintenance Plan

CHECK DATA

1. As-built plans including dimensions, types and quantities of materials

installed, and variations from design. Include justification for variations.

2. Adequacy of vegetation and/or ground cover.
3. Complete as-built section of Cover Sheet.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Operation and maintenance requirements must be prepared by the Designer for use by the owner or other responsible for operation this practice. The requirements should provide specific instructions for operation and maintaining the system to ensure that it functions properly. They should also provide for periodic inspections and prompt repair or replacement of damaged components. Erosion and sediment control practices should be maintained, as needed.

REFERENCES

1. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG), Section IV [Online]. Available at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/eFOTG>.
2. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. *Plant Establishment Guide for Virginia* [Online]. Available at <http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/technical>, listed under Plants.
3. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. General Manual. Available at <http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov>.
4. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. Virginia 700 Series Construction Specifications. [On-line]. Available at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/eFOTG>.

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