NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION

IA-23 EARTHFILL

1. SCOPE

The work shall consist of the construction of earth fills required by the drawings and specifications.

2. MATERIALS

All fill materials shall be obtained from required excavations and designated borrow areas. Fill materials shall contain no sod, brush, roots or other bio-degradable materials. Rocks larger than 6 inches in diameter shall be removed prior to compaction of the fill.

3. FOUNDATION PREPARATION

Foundations for earthfill shall be stripped to remove vegetation and other unsuitable materials. Foundation surfaces shall be scarified to a minimum depth of 2 inches.

Foundation and abutment surfaces shall not be sloped steeper than 1.5 horizontal to 1 vertical unless otherwise shown on the drawings.

4. PLACEMENT

Fill shall not be placed until the required excavation and foundation preparation have been completed and the foundation has been inspected and approved by NRCS. Fill shall not be placed upon a frozen surface, nor shall snow, ice, or frozen material be incorporated in the fill.

Adjacent to structures or pipes, fill shall be placed in a manner which will prevent damage. The height of the fill adjacent to structures or pipes shall be increased at approximately the same rate on all sides.

The materials used throughout the earth fill shall be essentially uniform. Selective placement shall be as shown on the drawings or approved by NRCS.

If the surface of any layer becomes too hard and smooth for proper bond with the succeeding layer, it shall be scarified to a depth of not less than 2 inches before the next layer is placed.

The top surfaces of embankments shall be maintained approximately level during construction, except that a cross-slope of approximately 2% shall be maintained to ensure effective drainage.

5. CONTROL OF MOISTURE CONTENT

The moisture content of the fill material shall be adequate for obtaining the required compaction. Material that is too wet shall be dried to meet this requirement, and material that is too dry shall have water added and mixed until the requirement is met.

The moisture content of the fill material shall be such that a ball formed with the hands does not crack or separate when struck sharply with a pencil and will easily ribbon out between the thumb and finger.

Earth foundations under and adjacent to concrete structures shall be prevented from drying and cracking before concrete and backfill are placed.

The application of water to the fill materials shall be accomplished at the borrow areas insofar as possible.

6. COMPACTION

Earth fill shall be compacted by one of the following methods as specified on the plans. If no method is specified, compaction will be in accordance with Method 1.

> Method 1 - Earthfill shall be placed so that the wheels or tracks of the loaded hauling equipment, traveling in a direction parallel to the centerline of fill, pass over the entire surface of each layer being placed.
>
> Method 2 - Two (2) complete passes of a tamping-type roller will be made over each layer. The roller shall be capable of exerting a minimum of one hundred (100) pounds per square inch.
>
> Method 3 - Minimum density shall be 90% of the maximum density as determined by ASTM D 698 and as shown on the plans.

The maximum thickness of a lift of fill before compaction shall be 9 inches, unless otherwise indicated on the drawings

For fills in excess of eight (8) feet in height, the moving of materials from the borrow areas to the embankment by the use of bulldozers only, is not an acceptable method.

Fill adjacent to structures, pipe conduits, and anti-seep collars shall be placed in layers not more than 4 inches thick and compacted to a density equivalent to that of the surrounding fill by hand tamping, manually directed power tampers, or plate vibrators. Care should be taken so that compaction around the spillway pipe does not cause uplift of the pipe resulting in a void beneath the pipe. Hand tamping only shall be used to compact the earthfill under the bottom half of circular pipes. Equipment shall not be operated within 2 feet of any structure or pipe.

Compacting of fill adjacent to structures shall not be started until the concrete is 7 days old.

7. SPECIAL SPECIFICATIONS