

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION GUIDE CLOSURE OF WASTE IMPOUNDMENT 360**

**360 - STEP 1. INITIAL EVALUATIONS**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this step is to determine the landowner's desire to close an existing waste impoundment (See NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 360).

The landowner must be interviewed to determine the purpose and need for a closure of waste impoundment. Considerations will include landowner goals and objectives, existing conditions, and effects of this practice on existing soil, water, air, plant, animal and human resources. A discussion of the NRCS closure of waste impoundment standard, specifications, and job sheets shall take place. Roles of the landowner and the person assisting with the planning and installation should also be discussed. Additional pertinent questions should be asked on a site-specific basis.

**360 - STEP 2. INVESTIGATIONS, SURVEYS, AND INVENTORIES**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this step is to identify the mandatory preliminary resource inventory and operations that are required before a closure of waste impoundment can be planned and performed. Resource inventories will include all data and information needed to make informed decisions in the planning and closure of the waste impoundment and any follow-up management needs. Appropriate resource inventories could include soils, topography, crops, reclamation, irrigation water supply, water rights and all physical features such as existing ditches, fencing, roads, natural barriers, and the current or planned irrigation system, etc. that might have an effect on planning the closure of waste impoundment. Adjacent land uses and resources that would be affected by the closure should also be considered. Identify map resources needed such as engineering surveys, USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle, soils, and road maps as well as aerial photography.

Also include identifying all needed utility clearances, archeological clearances (See NRCS Conservation Practice 360 job sheets, ENV-1 Environmental Assessment, and Resource Inventory Checklist).

**360 - STEP 3. PRACTICE DESIGN**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this step is to develop a design for the closure of waste impoundment. This practice will be designed in accordance with all federal, state and local laws and ordinances and shall consist of an acceptable design to reduce environmental impacts and meet the intended life of the practice.

Resource inventories and local conditions will need to be assessed for the proposed closure design as appropriate for the closure of waste impoundment.

A closure design will be developed with the client that meets the intended goals and objectives. All appropriate job sheets, maps and reports must be developed with landowners input, review and concurrence (See Conservation Practice 360 standard, specifications, and job sheets).

**II. MATERIALS/EQUIPMENT**

The purpose of this item is to insure an understanding of the materials/equipment used to perform a closure of a waste impoundment. Appropriate specifications, job sheets and expectations that include the types and number of each type of material and equipment will be provided to the landowner and all those involved in the planning and closing of the impoundment.

**360 -STEP 4. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this step is to document and describe each component of the planned closure of the impoundment, which includes step by step instructions to be used while closing the impoundment. This will include the documentation of all components described

## **Practice Documentation Guide 360-2**

in specifications and job sheet. Additional reference material should be included as needed and appropriate. The landowner/operator must be provided with a complete detailed design and plan in the form of a Conservation Plan, Plan Map, and NRCS Job Sheet 360. These documents depict the closure design. Items not described in these listed documents, but essential for the closure of the impoundment, will be added to the specifications and drawings.

### **360 - STEP 5. MANAGEMENT, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE**

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this step is to assure that proper management, reclamation, and maintenance is completed on the closure of the waste impoundment (See NRCS Practice Standard 360). This requires a familiarity with the design and correct closure method of the impoundment in a proper and safe fashion. Periodic maintenance of the closed impoundment should be implemented. These measures should be discussed with and understood by the landowner.

### **360 - STEP 6. COMPLIANCE OR SPOT CHECKING**

#### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this step is to determine that all work has been completed in accordance with the standards required by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. All completed NRCS forms should be collected from the landowner and submitted to the appropriate persons (See NRCS Practice Standard, Specifications, and Job Sheets 360, NM-ENV-1 Environmental Assessment, and Resource Inventory Checklist).

#### **II. DOCUMENTS**

Copies of all completed job sheets, data sheets, and work sheets should be submitted to the Natural Resources Conservation Service representative within 10 working days of completion of the closure of waste impoundment. This includes the Practice Requirements as outlined in Job Sheet 360 and any other job sheets that may be needed for this practice to meet the intended goals and objectives.