

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
\_\_\_\_\_, OKLAHOMA

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN  
POND OR DAM

Sponsor/Land user: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Legal description of practice location: SEC \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_

A properly operated and maintained water impoundment structure is an asset to your farm. This structure was designed and installed to entrap and provide storage of runoff water for beneficial use. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 20 years. The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation to maintain satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Periodically inspect the spillways and control gates for proper functioning for their ability to maintain the water level to design elevations.
- Remove any debris or obstructions from the spillways, trash guards, and conduits, following large storm events. **DO NOT ATTEMPT SUCH REMOVAL WHILE WATER IS ABOVE THE SPILLWAY INLET.** Tremendous suction forces from water flowing through a large conduit inlet can be powerful enough to trap an individual under water and/or pull an individual into the conduit itself, resulting in severe injury or a death. If the principal spillway conduit becomes obstructed to the point that the conduit does not function properly and this, as a result, is endangering the structure and/or creating an emergency, additional assistance may be required and extreme caution exercised. Under no circumstances should a lone individual use their arms or legs to dislodge the obstruction in the inlet of the conduit opening.

- Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and controlled application of herbicides when necessary. Periodic mowing may also be needed to control height.
- If fences are installed, they shall be maintained to prevent unauthorized or livestock entry.
- Remove floatable debris from the shore line and/or front slope that may potentially obstruct the spillway inlets.
- Periodically inspect downstream channel for obstructions.
- Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular, or livestock damage to any earthfills, spillways, outlets or other appurtenances.
- Make sure all structure drains are functional and soil is not being transported through the drainage system. Repair if not functioning. The screens and/or rodent guards shall also be kept in place.
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals and repair any damage caused by their activity.
- Remove woody vegetation from embankments.
- Determine and eliminate causes of settlement or cracks in the earthen sections and repair damage.
- Repair spalls, cracks and weathered areas in concrete surfaces.
- Repair or replace rusted or damaged metal and paint.
- Replace weathered or displaced rock riprap to constructed grade.

**SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR INSTALLATION**

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CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE OFFICE FOR ANY ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE YOU MIGHT NEED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR YOUR STRUCTURE.