

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN  
FOR  
IRRIGATION STORAGE RESERVOIR**

**(Code 436)**

Landowner/user:

Date:

Address:

This facility shall be operated & maintained in accordance with NRCS plans, standards, and specifications for the life span of this practice which is 15 years. The owner/operator shall promptly report any relevant compliance issues to the NRCS.

This facility will require the owner/operator to perform periodic operation & maintenance to ensure satisfactory performance.

Written records of maintenance and major repairs shall be retained in a file. A brief description of any noted irregularities, needed maintenance, problems, or any needed additional investigation should be noted. The following are specific items that should be considered for any operation and maintenance activities.

- Periodically inspect the spillways and any control gates for proper operation and for their ability to maintain the water level to design elevations and proper flow. Repair or restore to grade, if necessary;
  - Immediately remove any blockage or obstructions of spillways, trash racks and pipes at both the inlet and outlet;
  - Perform routine maintenance of any mechanical components in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Repair any leaks, broken, damaged or rusted components promptly. Exercise gates and valves at least annually or as needed to insure they are functioning properly and to flush any sediments that may accumulate at the inlets;
  - Repair and restore any eroded areas at any stilling basins or pipe outlets;
  - Keep adequate backfill over the pipeline or other structural components;
  - Periodically remove sediment from the storage facilities and/or traps to maintain design capacity and efficiency;
  - Maintain a grass filter strip around the pond to trap sediments, where applicable;
  - Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetation on the embankment and vegetated spillway areas. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and controlled application of herbicides when necessary. Periodic mowing shall be done as needed to control height and woody vegetation;
- Note: Vegetative measures may be site specific. Check design requirements.
- Inspect for erosion, settlement and cracks in embankment and earth spillways. Investigate the cause and immediately repair;

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- Periodically check elevations of earthfills and restore to grade and shape, if necessary;
- Maintain rock riprap to the constructed grade. Replace weathered or displaced rock as well as any associated measures;
- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals and repair any damage caused by their activity;
- Avoid excess travel on any portion of the system that will harm function or destroy vegetative cover, while maintaining travel-ways that provide access for operation and maintenance;
- If needed, install and maintain fences, railings, and/or warning signs to prevent unauthorized (or damaging) human or animal entry. ;
- Annually inspect and monitor the downstream toe for seepage. Seek qualified assistance to evaluate the need for repair, or further investigation, of any observed seeps or wet areas;
- Make sure all structure drains are functional and soil is not being transported through the drainage system. Repair if not functioning. The screens and rodent guards shall also be kept in place;
- Avoid travel over subsurface drains by equipment when the soil is saturated except at designated crossings;
- Avoid any sub-soiling operation that may disturb the drain or its filter/bedding materials;
- Make sure drain outlets are free flowing and rodent guards are in place. Keep headwall repaired;
- Use fire resistant materials or otherwise protect pipe outlets if burning is the prescribed method of weed control in outlet ditches;
- All settlement sink holes, cave-ins or cracks in the embankment soil adjacent to any pipelines or other structural components should be investigated to determine the cause and immediately repair.

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**Inspections**

The facility may be inspected periodically by the NRCS to ensure proper operation. NRCS form JS-ME-ENG-16 Dam inspection Checklist can be used to document Operation and Maintenance inspections and follow-up work needed. The inspections may include but is not limited to:

- Maintenance and repair files;
- Water level to design elevations;
- Inlets and outlets free flowing, stable and in repair;
- Mechanical components functional and in repair;
- Sediment accumulations acceptable;
- Embankment integrity and proper control of vegetative cover;
- Grades and elevations of earthfills;
- Seepage signs;
- Drains functioning;
- Rodent guards in place;
- Stabilization and erosion control measures;
- Fencing/Damage control;
- Safety.

**Specific Recommendations for Your Practice**

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