

**USDA  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
CONSERVATION SERVICE  
  
DELAWARE CONSERVATION  
PRACTICE STANDARD  
  
OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL  
  
CODE 500  
(Reported by Ac.)**

**CRITERIA**

Obstruction removal shall be planned, designed, and carried out to meet 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. Burial of wood and other plant materials is not allowed in Delaware.

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.

Appropriate erosion control practices shall be applied on disturbed areas.

This practice must conform to all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

**PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Plans and specifications for establishment of this practice shall be prepared in accordance with the previously listed criteria. Plans and specifications shall contain sufficient detail to ensure success of the practice. Documentation shall be in accordance with the section "Supporting Data and Documentation" in this standard.

**SUPPORTING DATA FOR  
DOCUMENTATION**

The following is a list of the minimum data and documentation to be recorded in the case file:

**DEFINITION**

Removal and disposal of unwanted, unsightly, or hazardous buildings, structures, vegetation, landscape features, and other materials.

**PURPOSES**

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.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

This practice has the potential to affect National Register listed cultural resources or eligible (significant) cultural resources. These may include archeological, historic, or traditional cultural properties. Care should be taken to avoid adverse impacts to these resources. Follow NRCS state policy for considering cultural resources during planning.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

1. Extent of planting in acres, field number where the practice located, and the location of the practice marked on the conservation plan map.
2. Assistance notes.

### **Field Data and Survey Notes**

The following is a list of the minimum data needed:

1. Plan view sketch.
2. Boundary of the treated area.
3. Location and description of individual obstructions.
4. Location and description of the disposal area, as appropriate.
5. Profile and cross-section of the disposal area and special precautions if needed.

### **Design Data**

Record on appropriate engineering paper. For guidance on the preparation of engineering plans see Chapter 5 of the Engineering Field Handbook - Part 650. The following is a list of the minimum required design data:

1. Locate the practice on the farm plan map in the case file.
2. Determine soil type and any special restrictions.
3. Design the obstruction removal to meet the criteria of this practice standard.
4. Show the engineering job class on the plans.
5. Plan view sketch, showing location of obstructions to be removed, and location of the disposal area, as appropriate.
6. Description of the obstructions to be removed.
7. Description of the method of disposal of the obstructions.

8. Grading plan for the treated area and the disposal area, as appropriate.
9. Estimated quantities.
10. Planting plan. This must meet the criteria, specifications, and documentation requirements of the conservation standard for Critical Area Planting (Code 342). Show on the plans.

### **Construction Check Data/As-Built Plans**

Record on survey notepaper, NRCS-ENG-28, or other appropriate engineering paper. Survey data will be plotted in red on the as-built plans. The following is a list of minimum data needed for as-built documentation:

1. Documentation of site visits on CPA-6. The documentation shall include the date, who performed the inspection, specifics as to what was inspected, all alternatives discussed and decisions made and by whom.
2. Check notes recorded during or after completion of construction showing grade and cross section of the treated area and the disposal area, as appropriate.
3. Calculate acreage.
4. Statement on seeding and fencing.
5. Final quantities and documentation for quantity changes. Material certifications as appropriate.
6. Signature and date on the check-notes and plans of someone with appropriate engineering job approval authority. Include a written statement that the constructed practice meets or exceeds the construction plans and NRCS practice standards.