

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR**  
**DAM**  
**CODE 402**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Desc. \_\_\_\_\_

Ident. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
County \_\_\_\_\_

A properly operated and maintained dam is an asset to your property. This structure was designed and installed to reduce downstream flood damage; to provide permanent water storage for one or more beneficial uses such as irrigation or livestock supply, fire control, municipal, industrial, or recreational uses; or to create or improve habitat for fish and wildlife.

The estimated life span of this installation is at least 15 years. The life of this installation can be ensured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program. An Emergency Action Plan is also required for high hazard structures and may be required for significant hazard structures. Review the breach inundation area for new potential hazards.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance for satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program. Contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for technical assistance on repairs or modifications to the structure or if new potential hazards are constructed in the breach inundation area.

**General Recommendations**

- Periodically inspect the spillways and control gates for proper functioning to ensure their ability to maintain the water level to design elevations. Operate valves at least annually to maintain good working condition.
- Immediately remove any blockage or obstructions of spillways, trash racks, and pipelines.
- Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilizing, and applying herbicides when

necessary. Periodically mow as needed to control height.

- Maintain installed fences to prevent unauthorized human access or uncontrolled livestock grazing.
- Immediately repair any damage due to vandalism, vehicles, or livestock that has been done to the structure or other appurtenances.
- Check all structure drains for flow and note the estimated flow rate along with the pool level. Keep the screens and/or rodent guards in place.
- Inspect for damage from rodents or burrowing animals. Repair any damage and take appropriate corrective actions to avoid further damage.
- Remove woody vegetation from the embankments and the auxiliary spillway.
- Check the embankment top and slopes for settlement or cracks. Check slopes for uniformity, bulges, sloughs, or wet areas.
- Repair spalls, cracks, and weathered areas in concrete surfaces. Repair or replace rusted or damaged metal and paint it.
- Inspect rock riprap and replace weathered or displaced rock as needed to the constructed grade.

**Specific Recommendations**

**If you need additional technical assistance to implement the operation and maintenance plan for this structure, contact NRCS at your local USDA Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government).**